

هڪڙو مان زيادو

THE TIMES MAGAZINE, WEEKEND, METRO, VISION, MEGA... BEST SATURDAY PAPER

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WEEKEND

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**THE TIMES** 50p

No. 66,281 SATURDAY AUGUST 15 1998 <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

**Leonardo's 'first painting' discovered in London**



A PAINTING in the National Gallery attributed to Verrocchio actually features the hand of the master's most important student: Leonardo da Vinci, a leading American scholar claims.

Since fewer than 20 paintings by Leonardo survive — and there have been no accepted discoveries within memory — the identification of his hand on another work would be sensational. It could also mean a tenfold increase in the value of the picture, *Tobias and the Angel*. One art expert suggested that it would put it in the \$100 million Van Gogh league.

David Brown, curator of Italian Renaissance painting at the National Gallery in Washington and author of numerous studies on Leonardo, believes that the figure of Tobias, the fish and dog are all by Leonardo. "This is young Leonardo's first painting," he says — although he holds that the rest of the work

American scholar detects young master's hand in National Gallery picture, reports Dalya Alberge

is correctly attributed to Andrea del Verrocchio (c1435-88). Leonardo went to study in Verrocchio's Florentine workshop in the 1460s and would have been perhaps 14 when the painting was done. Verrocchio was in his thirties.

Pointing to the *Baptism in the Uffizi*, Florence, as another composition on which they collaborated, and to stylistic evidence examined under a microscope, Dr Brown said: "Passages can be distinguished from Verrocchio's manner and are connected in many ways with Leonardo's established works."

He likened, for example, the shaggy dog's coat to the long rippling hair of Leonardo's angel in the *Baptism*, describing them as "strikingly similar". "Indeed, the terrier's and the angel's curls are almost interchangeable. With its head turned and foreleg raised... the dog also anticipates the over-sized ermine in Leonardo's later *Portrait of a Lady* in Crakow: both animals, however realistic in form and action, are interpreted in the same unmistakably personal idiom."

Most revealing, perhaps, is that he has detected traces of left-hand brushwork in Tobias's hair: "Leonardo was left-handed. These strokes indicate that they were done with the left hand. It is in the direction of the strokes. You see it in the drawings." Comparing the hair of the two figures, he said: "They seem clearly by two different

artists." The curls forming a forelock on Tobias's hair are "a kind of Leonardo signature". Also, Tobias's delicate features are more sensitively modelled and superior in their grasp, he said, noting that the head is "effectively silhouetted against the darkest part of the angel, just as Leonardo set off Gabriel's profile before a tree in the *Uffizi Annunciation*".

*Tobias* was acquired by the National Gallery from Milan in 1867. Academics have long been divided over whether it is a Verrocchio or from his workshop. The main Verrocchio scholar, Günter Passavant, believes it is by him, but a scholar called William Suida suggested some 45 years ago that the animal motifs were by Leonardo. Martin Davies, who was then director of the gallery, suggested that the claim deserved careful discussion, but later scholars dismissed the theory along with Suida's other propositions. Dr Brown has, however, now concluded that Suida was not only right about the animals, but that the figure of Tobias is also by Leonardo.

"The vitality of the dog and the fish, and the sympathy with which they are portrayed are the clues to Leonardo's participation," he said. "This has his expression and personality. Verrocchio was not a great interpreter of nature, so it's what Leonardo was able to contribute." Of the fish, he said: "Its iridescent scales are brilliantly captured in shimmering specks. Even more striking is the head, especially the liquid eye, which is rendered with a painterly freedom that is truly astonishing."

Dr Brown's theory is explored extensively in *Leonardo da Vinci — Origins of a Genius*, a study of his earliest work to be published next month. The National Gallery declined to comment.

**Clinton ready to admit sex with Lewinsky**

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

BRACING himself for the most perilous moment of his presidency, Bill Clinton yesterday was ready to admit having had sexual contact with Monica Lewinsky.

Mr Clinton was said to have held intensive discussions with his inner circle of advisers about the legal and political implications of acknowledging an intimate relationship with the former White House trainee when he testifies under oath to the grand jury on Monday.

In an attempt to avoid a charge of perjury, he would need to argue that the admission was not inconsistent with his earlier denials because of the narrow definition of "sexual relations": he was given during his sworn deposition in the Paula Jones case last January. The definition can be construed to exclude oral sex.

If Mr Clinton does go ahead with this plan, and aides insist that he had made no final decision, the dissembling involved would exceed his earlier pseudo-denials — "I did not inhale" when he tried marijuana, and "I have acknowledged causing pain in my marriage" when asked about his affair with Gennifer Flowers.

When Mr Clinton does decide what to say to the grand



President Clinton waiting to address Democrats in Washington yesterday

**Hoddle faces FA book showdown**

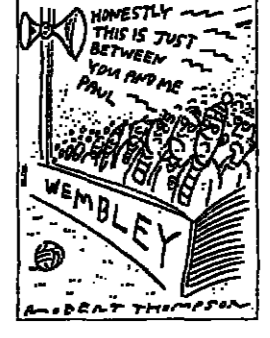
BY MATT DICKINSON AND ADRIAN LEE

GLENN HODDLE, accused of betraying the confidences of his players with a book about the World Cup, is to face the anger of his Football Association bosses next month.

The FA's international committee, ultimately responsible for appointing and dismissing England coaches, is concerned by the mounting criticism and the poor publicity generated by the book. One FA source said yesterday that Hoddle faced a "grilling" for his apparent indiscretion. The England coach will meet the 14-strong committee when he presents his report on the World Cup.

Hoddle is to undertake an extensive seven-date national book promotion tour which ends six days before he flies his England team out to Sweden for one of the most important qualifying games of the European Championship.

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**Corruption drive to end police 'perks'**

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A NATIONAL crackdown on police corruption has been launched by Jack Straw after fresh evidence that there are far more crooked officers than commanders and ministers believed.

Officers will have to abide by a new code of ethics, which is expected to ban minor "perks" such as the use of a police identity card to gain free admission to clubs and even give advice on whether senior officers should be allowed to drink during business lunches. The code is likely to be draconian because of the belief that serious corruption flows from petty dishonesty.

The Home Office demanded secret reports from all 43 chief constables in England and Wales to assess the scale of corruption after initial investigations showed that sleaze was a problem in rural as well as city forces.

One Home Office source said: "There is corruption in every type of force. None is

**Marines set for Congo evacuation**

THE Royal Marines were on standby to move about 250 Britons out of the Democratic Republic of Congo last night as rebel forces advanced on the capital Kinshasa.

A company group of 150 marines from 40 Commando was ordered to be ready to fly to Ascension Island in the South Atlantic, about six hours from the Congo, as the Foreign Office urged all British nationals to leave immediately.

America and France are also preparing for an evacuation — America has deployed two warships off Congo and France is sending an Airbus — and Germany is advising its citizens to move out. But embassies reported the many foreign residents were reluctant to leave Kinshasa on the grounds that they had "seen it all before".

Kinshasa blackout, page 15

**Priest 'comes out' in protest at church vote**

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

AN ANGLICAN priest has responded to the Archbishop of Canterbury's plea for the Church to "listen to the experience of homosexuals" by announcing that he has had a "gay wedding" with the man who shares his rectory.

Simon Long, 38, is risking his job by "outing" himself in protest against the overwhelming vote condemning homosexuality by the Lambeth conference of bishops a week ago.

Mr Long, a divorced father of three who met his partner Kevin Crowe in a gay club nine years ago, said: "I have sometimes wondered why on earth I have bothered to be an Anglican."

"The reality is that the Church has nurtured me and sustained me through all sorts of major life issues — my divorce was only one. It means a lot to me."

"The way I live now I have come to see as the only way that I can live. I find myself

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THE BIG KICK OFF All the Premiership action

**TIGER WOODS**



A new drive for success

**DIANA**



Turmoil over her fund More from Andrew Morton's new book

EXCLUSIVE



**BRITAIN: the 51st State**

by Peter Preston

SPIKED DRINK THAT LED TO DATE RAPE



Garrick pooh-poohs a payout

Club will share Disney windfall with charity, writes Peter Foster

GARRICK CLUB members overcame the temptation to line their own pockets yesterday when they voted to use part of a £50 million windfall to set up a charity to help struggling artists and disadvantaged children from London's East End.

The £8 million charitable trust will be funded by the proposed sale to Walt Disney of the television and film rights to the Winnie the Pooh stories, which are part-owned by the club.

At a special general meeting in London yesterday senior figures from the club turned out in force to overrule suggestions from some members, including Lord Lamont of Lerwick, the former Chancellor, that the cash should be parcelled out to members in lots of £39,000.

But, after yesterday's decision, club

members will still have an estimated £12 million to spend as they see fit. Anthony Butcher, chairman of the men-only establishment, said they would decide what to do with the spare cash in the coming year, before voting at next July's annual meeting. If the 1,200 members decided to divide the spoils between themselves, each would receive £11,700.

The Garrick, the lunchtime refuge for many actors, lawyers and journalists, was left a quarter-share of the Pooh estate by A. A. Milne, a stalwart former member. Some 400 members, including Sir Robin Day, the broadcaster; Sir Donald Sinden, the actor; and Frank Thornton, who

played Captain Peacock in the BBC sitcom *Are You Being Served?*, trooped from the club to *The Fortune Theatre* in the West End for the pre-lunch meeting.

The precarious crocodile of ageing artists, bristling with walking sticks and sporting the club's bilious salmon pink and cucumber tie, was led by Mr Butcher. Afterwards, as his members returned for a hard-earned lunch, Mr Butcher explained that the club would receive about £30 million after deductions for tax, administration costs and a £7.5 million gift to the estate of E. H. Shepard, the illustrator of the Pooh stories.

Last night a Garrick Club member

played down any prospect that the views of Lord Lamont, who was not at yesterday's meeting, would prevail. "The feeling was very much that the prospect of a share-out had been defeated."

If completed, the proceeds of the Walt Disney deal, worth £200 million, will be divided between the Garrick, Westminster School, the Royal Literary Fund and a member of A. A. Milne's immediate family.

The deal between Disney and the Pooh Property Trust, which has an initial deadline of October 1, depends on the US Congress granting a 20-year extension on the copyright for the Pooh stories. Disney already has

the film and television rights until 2006, but is offering £200 million for the extra 20 years.

Both the Trust, Westminster School and the Royal Literary Fund were in favour of the deal before the Garrick Club signalled its agreement in principle yesterday.

The trust will keep the paperback and hardback book rights, which should continue to yield six-figure royalty cheques for the beneficiaries, who also include the surviving family of E. H. Shepard, who are expected to receive £30 million before tax from the television rights sale. The other main beneficiaries, who currently receive about £2 million a year in royalties, have yet to declare what they will do with the lump sum should the deal come off.

Row over Labour's 'flights for votes' offer

By JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR is offering its members the chance to win free flights to America in an attempt to increase the number of telephone voters in the elections to the National Executive Committee.

The decision to use telephone balloting for the first time sparked bitter internal fighting reminiscent of the 1980s yesterday as left-wing candidates voiced fresh claims that the process could be open to abuse.

Lord Sawyer, outgoing general secretary, insisted that the election was safe from manipulation and said the Left was trying to hijack it. He was accused by Ken Livingstone, Labour MP and NEC member, of betraying the trust of the party's grass roots.

Any Labour members voting by telephone between now and September will automatically be entered into a competition to win two free Virgin Atlantic economy tickets to Washington DC. Those voting by post do not automatically enter the competition and instead have to fill out a separate form.

Participation in previous NEC postal ballots has traditionally been low and the results have tended to be determined more by activists than by ordinary members.



The Rev Simon Long with partner Kevin Crowe at home in Leicestershire yesterday

Priest 'comes out' in protest at vote

Continued from page 1

It is perfectly clear they wish the situation were different. They turn a blind eye to it because they quite like me."

Mr Long feels ambivalent about the threats by gay militants in Outrage to expose homosexual clergy whom they perceive as taking a hypocritical stance by officially backing anti-gay policies.

"I can understand the anger of the people in Outrage over what they see going on. While I can understand what they are doing, I think that for Outrage to out certain bishops is an invasion of their privacy."

He added: "If the church is serious about listening, then that listening has got to include the gay clergy. Our Christian experience is just as serious as anyone else's. Gay clergy work just as hard as all the other clergy. It is time we were heard from."

The Archbishop of Canterbury Dr George Carey said to gays after the Lambeth conference voted against homosexuality: "I can only try to reassure them of my commitment to continue to listen and to try to understand more of their experience of the Church."

Soon Mr Long was allowing his lover to stay overnight at the rectory. After three years together they agreed to have a blessing ceremony, the nearest homosexuals can come to marriage. The Anglican Church does not officially approve these so, like many gay Christians, they turned to the Metropolitan Community Church for a "service of union".

In Birmingham, surrounded by 100 friends, they stood in matching white dinner jackets to exchange rings and vows, a gesture of protest against the absence of inheritance rights for homosexual couples under British law.

Mr Long has not officially "come out" to his parishioners. "Kevin was around," he said. "They started to draw their own conclusions. I don't know that they have ever

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boating survivor says boy died in his arms

A survivor of the boating tragedy in northern Italy in which a father and his son drowned and another son is missing, presumed dead, told last night how one boy died in his arms two hours before they were rescued after a night in the water. John Lilley, 43, lashed Luke Harris to the 15ft speedboat to stop him drifting away, as the seven-year-old boy's father and brother had already done, and turned his attention to saving his own children.

Luke's father, Richard, 50, died, and his brother, Timothy, 13, is missing after the boat was caught in a freak gale on Lake Garda. Mr Lilley, from Aberdeen, said that Luke died as dawn broke over the lake. "I kept feeling him go. I was scared for him and kept shaking him. Just before dawn I felt him go. I tried to resuscitate him, but he was so cold. I did what I could for the little one." The four who survived after 15 hours in the water were Mr Lilley, his son Andrew, 14, daughter Alison, 12, and Luke's mother, Katherine, 42, from Renhold, Bedfordshire, who was in hospital last night recovering from hypothermia. Mr Lilley said: "The lake looked as smooth as could be. We were out for an hour and not far from the coast when, all of a sudden, the waves started getting bigger and bigger and the wind rose."

Stag hunting revolt

A campaign to overturn the National Trust's ban on staghunting on Exmoor and the Quantock Hills in Somerset is being mounted in rural England. Friends of the National Trust is urging the hundreds who left the Trust over the ban last year to rejoin before August 28 so that they can vote for seven pro-hunting candidates to the organisation's ruling council. Two are likely to be the Hon George Lucas, proposed by Lord Carrington, the former Foreign Secretary, and seconded by the actor Jeremy Irons, and Lucinda Green, the former international three-day eventer.

Farm campaign protest

More than 4,000 sheep were transported across the Channel yesterday as farmers launched a campaign to win new markets by increasing livestock exports. Some 50 animal welfare activists demonstrated outside the docks in Dover as 11 lorries carrying about 400 lambs each entered the port and drove aboard a ferry bound for Dunkirk. Richard Hardy, of Compassion in World Farming, said: "Farmers are flying in the face of public opinion by trying to escalate this cruel and uneconomic trade." The number of live sheep shipped to the Continent has fallen after recent protests.

Video ruling overturned

A decision to deny a rating certificate to video containing explicit scenes of sexual intercourse has been overturned. *Make It Whoopie!* had been refused a certificate by the British Board of Film Classification in April, despite an indication last September that it would be rated R18 for licensed sex shops. The board said that the Video Appeals Committee was unanimous that the video was not obscene within the terms of the Obscene Publications Acts. The committee said that, apart from one lesbian scene, all the activity was heterosexual and non-violent.

Mooning tourists jailed

Four British tourists were jailed after two of them pulled down their trousers and showed their buttocks at an ancient Minoan palace in Crete, according to reports from Greece. The four, identified as Shiva Mahalingam and Mit Kopeha, both 22, Daniel Maher, 26, and Vimal Patel, 23, had been arrested in the palace at the archaeological site of Knossos on charges of "causing a scandal by engaging in obscene acts", the reports said. Three of the four were sentenced to ten months in prison and the other for seven months. The men, who expressed regret for their actions, are to appeal.

Judge bottles out

A judge adjourned a hearing after discovering that the defendant was his milkman. Vincent Gallagher, 35, of Henley Green, Coventry, had denied causing the death by dangerous driving of Carl Giles, 14, the teenager, who was helping the defendant with his milk round, drowned when the van was swept away into the River Leam during flash flooding near Easbyrpe, Warwickshire, at Easter. Judge Wilson told Warwick Crown Court: "I am somewhat embarrassed in that I am one of his customers." He adjourned the case for trial at a date to be fixed later.

Grandfather and baby vanish

By JOANNA BALE

CONCERN was growing last night for the safety of a retired police inspector and his baby grandson, who disappeared after going out for a car ride on Thursday afternoon.

Fears that Gwilym Evans, 61, may have fallen ill close to his home in North Wales and been unable to return with 13-month-old Liam have not been confirmed. Thirty local people, including friends of Mr Evans, joined 60 police officers, an RAF helicopter and specialist rescue teams yesterday in searching the coastline around Old Colwyn.

Detective Superintendent Eric Jones, of North Wales Police, said that Mr Evans and his wife, Barbara, had been caring for Liam at their home while the child's parents, Gareth and Ruth, took their daughter, Sophia, 3, for a doctor's appointment.

"Liam grew a bit boisterous at around 3.15pm while Mrs Evans was playing with him, so Mr Evans offered to take the child off her hands," he said. "At that time



Gwilym Evans and grandson Liam

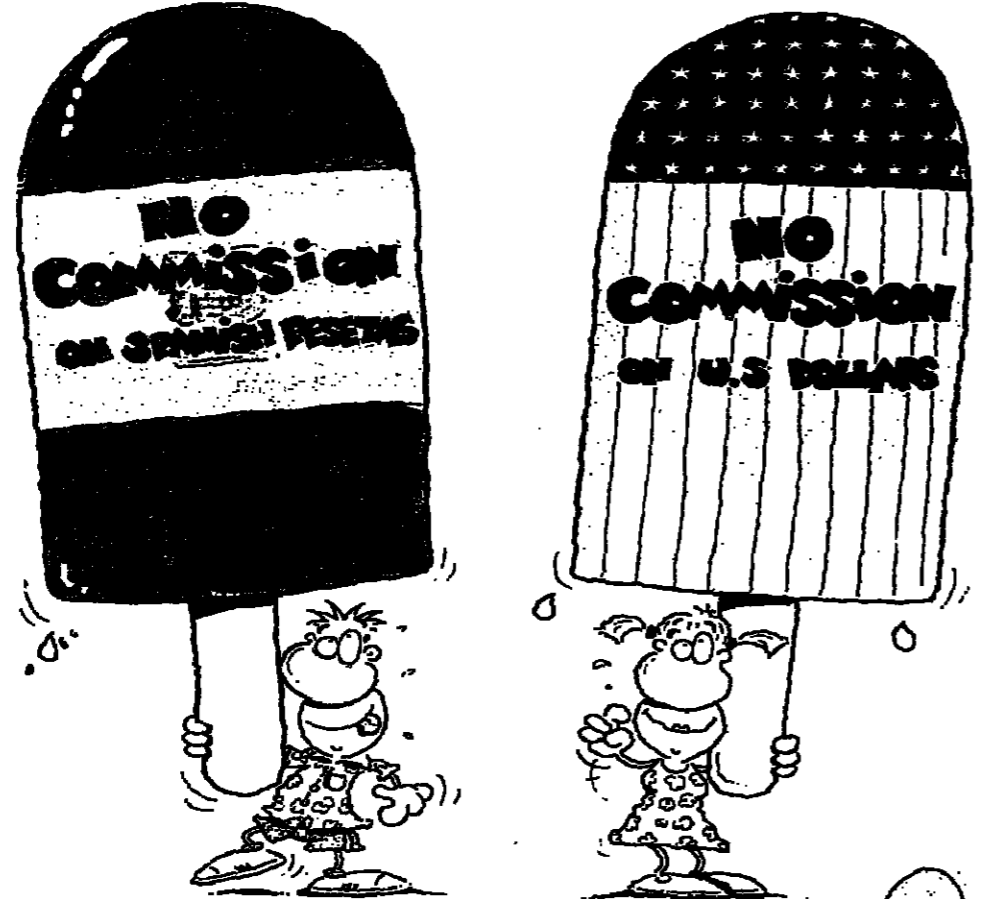
some medication, but no tablets have gone missing. We are not aware of any history of depression.

"There is the possibility that he has collapsed at the wheel, which has led to some sort of unfortunate car accident. There is nothing whatsoever to suggest that any harm would befall Liam at the hands of his grandfather. He is a doing grandfather, a mild-mannered man."

Mr Jones said that two sightings had been reported. On Thursday afternoon a friend spoke to Mr Evans, who was driving a maroon Vauxhall Vectra, at a filling station in Colwyn Bay. At Cricketh, 50 miles away, a child was seen on swings at 5pm with a man who called him Liam. Mr Evans's credit cards have not been used since he left home.


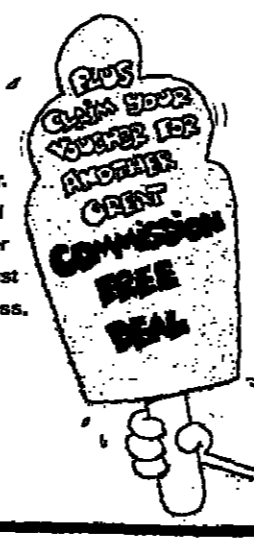
Mr Evans, who is about 5ft 6in tall with grey hair and glasses, retired as a detective inspector in 1986. He was deputy chief of the CID at Colwyn Bay and Llandudno, a former Special Branch officer and received ten commendations. Liam has blond hair and was wearing a red top and trousers.

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Postma

The longer the... the cool fashion...

Reports of U... mysteriously in...

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# Postman's bags are given short shrift

FOR 14 months, Mike Storey made short work of delivering mail to 200 households in the Yorkshire Dales. He wore his navy shorts in rain and shine, for two hours every morning, six days a week.

**Paul Wilkinson**  
on why a postal worker's unofficial uniform led to his suspension

am waiting at home to see what happens next. I know one thing, though: they won't be giving me to wear their shorts. They are too baggy and too wide and they make me look ridiculous.

The amateur actor — who has appeared in ITV's *A Touch of Frost* — said that people in the village were angry at the decision to suspend him from his £54-a-week job. "I do a lot of fellwalking and I wear them for that. It suits me to do my postal round in shorts."

Anita Batty, secretary of the Ingleton Community Centre, said: "It is a stupid decision. Everyone around here knows Mike and it wouldn't be him if he wasn't wearing his shorts."

A Royal Mail spokesman said that it recognised the need for postmen and women to wear shorts in warmer weather, but added: "Rules are rules. We issue shorts in different sizes but if someone wants to wear their own, providing they are deemed to be suitable by the line manager and compatible with Royal Mail uniform, that is all right."

"If the manager observes that an improper item is being worn, he can take action."

Knee-length shorts were first introduced into the British Army in the 1920s. The first written record of them was in the 1936 army clothing regulations when, "at the discretion of the commanding officer, two pairs of khaki drill shorts could be worn instead of khaki drill trousers."

Now, in a decision he says is long on officialdom and short on common sense, Mr Storey has been suspended. In short, the Royal Mail says his shorts are too just short. And unless he relents and agrees to wear the regulation 19½-inch pair, he will not be allowed to deliver mail again.

The former Army PT instructor gives the Royal Mail's argument short shrift, and claims the company's choice makes him look like an extra from *It Ain't Half Hot Mum*. "It's not as if I wanted to walk around in a G-string. I know it's the current style for young people to wear long shorts, but I am 61 years of age and I should be able to wear what I want."

When the Royal Mail sent me a pair of blue shorts, they virtually came down to my knees. They looked ridiculous. "My shorts are smart: they are 13 inches long, but the Royal Mail's are 6½ inches longer. They are the same colour as mine, but they are so long they make me look like a character out of the TV show."



By the right: Army issue in *It Ain't Half Hot Mum*



Long and the short of it: Mike Storey in his own shorts and, right, the pair that the Royal Mail says he must wear on his round

## The longer the better in the cool fashion stakes

Don't become a walking disaster, says Alex O'Connell

MR STOREY'S shorts, which cut off the circulation at the top of the thighs, sag at the crotch and hug the bottom, are "totally uncool", according to the style police. Menswear buyers, shop assistants and soldiers say they wouldn't be seen dead in them.

Short shorts are so fashionable that — unlike the polyester shirt and the bob-tube — they haven't even gained the sort of second-hand, ironic cool associated with clothes so horrible that they're hip. If you don't want to be a fashion disaster this summer, it seems you must let your shorts hang loose and wear everything else baggy.

John Morgan, *Times* columnist and associate editor of *GQ* magazine, confirmed that Mr Storey was definitely going against the trend. "The fashion now is for longer shorts, combat shorts that are fairly long but above the knee, and board shorts, which are on the knee," he said. He added that the look for 1998-99 would be "really, really long shorts. Really short shorts are only for athletic purposes — they show far too much leg and are unattractive."

Nick Walker, men's casual-wear buyer at Harvey Nichols, agreed, insisting that the really fashionable are stepping out in the male equivalent of the now ubiquitous summer staple, the pedal-pusher. However, he offered

some sympathy to Mr Storey. "He is obviously wearing a short that he likes, but then again, I have to wear a shirt, tie and suit to work every day, which I don't always like doing, and the Post Office has an image to maintain."

Steven Davies, manager of the men's fashion shop Duffer of St George, in West London, whose own-label, over-the-knee shorts and big trunks are popular this year, is convinced that the nastiest shorts to wear this summer scrape the shins and leave the knees well-covered. "I certainly wouldn't wear short shorts for the same reason that a woman wouldn't wear them. I'd be so conscious of how my bottom was looking."

Carhartt, a "workwear" chain frequented by members of the pop group Shed Seven, Zoe Ball, Steven Berkoff and numerous Blue Peter presenters, sells three styles of shorts



Carhartt's "workwear" shorts are knee length

in cotton twill and poly-cotton. Its shorts have many pockets and "hammer" loops at the waistband. Its "Master Bermuda" line grazes the knee.

"I don't think short shorts have been fashionable for ages, not even with footballers," said Ben Joseph, a spokesman for Carhartt, yesterday. "They have a hideously perverse image, the whole idea of them is disgusting."

Mr Morgan suggests that, if you want to look smart in shorts, you should wear the classic Bermuda variety, which come just above the knee. They resemble, to all intents and purposes, abbreviated trousers.

Mr Walker was also concerned about Mr Storey's choice of footwear and admitted that he would never advise his customers to wear black shoes and grey socks with any pair of shorts. "From a fashion point of view, a sandal is the most fashionable thing to wear with them," he said. "But never with socks."

The Army does not issue shorts to soldiers unless they are posted to tropical countries. Then they are given combat shorts a good few inches longer than Mr Storey's. An Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "Our priority is to protect ourselves from biting insects and the last thing we want is bare flesh. The style now is the big, baggy things."

## Reports of UFOs vanish mysteriously into space

By James Landale, Political Reporter

THE little green men from outer space have packed their bags, fired up their flying saucers and headed home. Or perhaps we have just become a little less credulous.

Reported sightings of UFOs have fallen dramatically in Britain in the past year, according to the Ministry of Defence. In 1996 609 people told the ministry that they had seen an unidentified flying object. Last year the figure dropped to 425. In the first six months of this year only 88 people reported sightings.

Ministry officials differed from UFO experts yesterday in explaining the decline. A spokesman suggested that Hollywood was to blame. The unusually high 1996 figures had been prompted, it said, by the film *Independence Day*, with its story of aliens trying to destroy Earth. This was compounded by *Men in Black*, last year's film about aliens living on our planet. Similarly high numbers occurred after *Close Encounters of a Third Kind* in the late 1970s,

when sightings rocketed from 435 to 750.

"The spokesman" added that the Hale-Bopp comet and last year's 50th anniversary of an American pilot coining the term "flying saucer" had contributed to the figures. "There was a series of films and events in 1996 and 1997 which triggered off a spate of reports from the public," he said. "In contrast, this year we have had the World Cup."

His theory has a flaw: UFO sightings dropped from 600 to 250 after *ET* hit the screens in 1982, Nick Pope, a UFO expert and civil



servant who investigated sightings for the ministry between 1991 and 1994, was sceptical of the films theory. "The idea of a link is an attempt to try to trivialise the UFO project."

Graham Birdsall, editor of *UFO Magazine*, said official reports of sightings had declined because the ministry decided last year to stop talking them in person over the telephone, installing an answering machine instead. This put people off making a report.

He claimed that the official figures represented only 10 per cent of UFO sightings, most of which went unreported because observers were afraid of being mocked. Many other reports, made to the police and airports, did not reach the ministry.

The official figures were given in a written parliamentary answer to Lord Hill-Norton, the 83-year-old former First Sea Lord and UFO aficionado. His only comment yesterday was that he did not think the number of sightings had dropped.

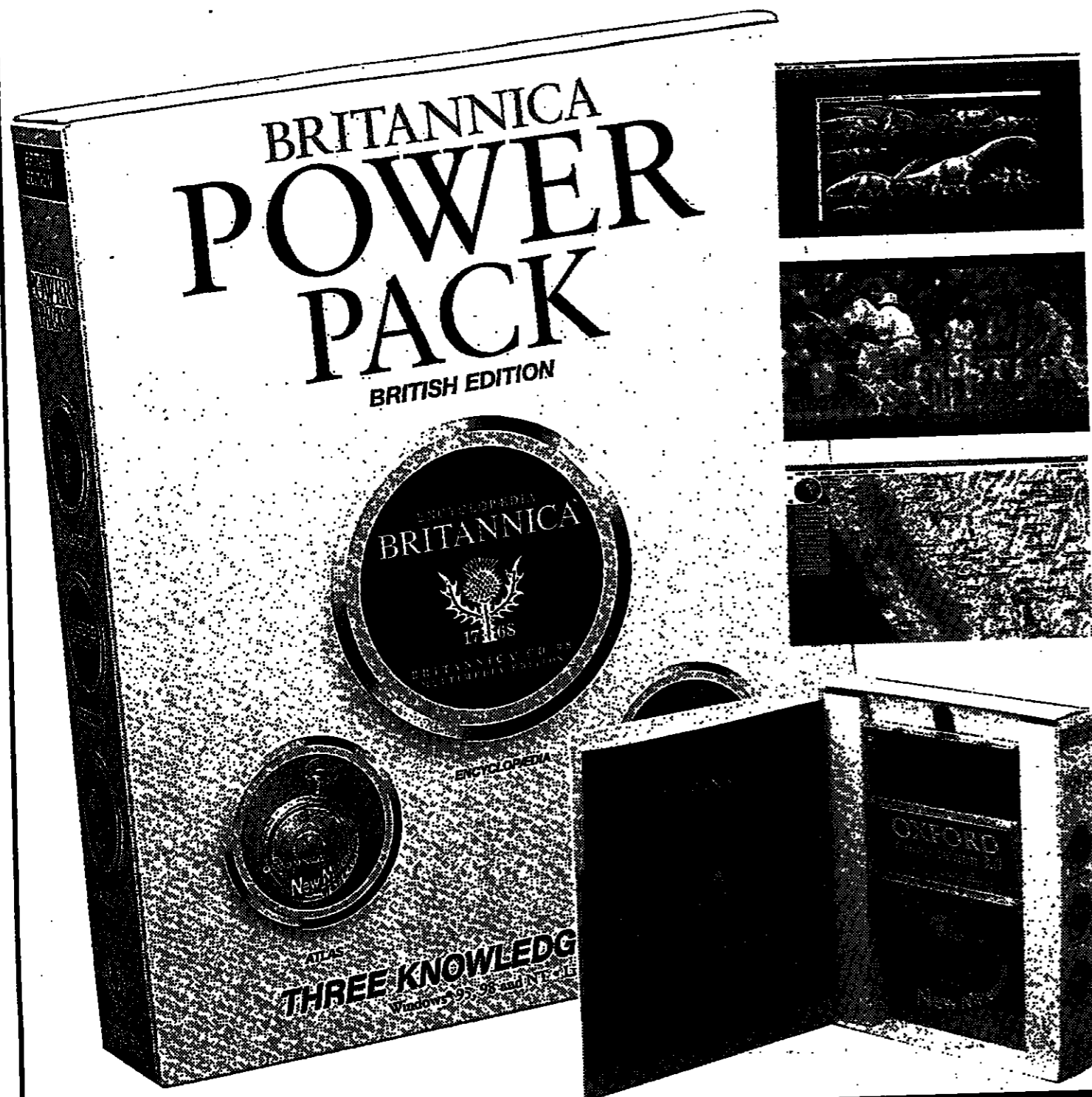
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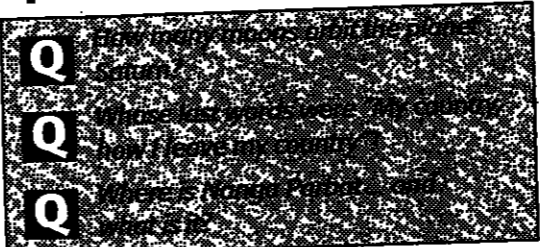
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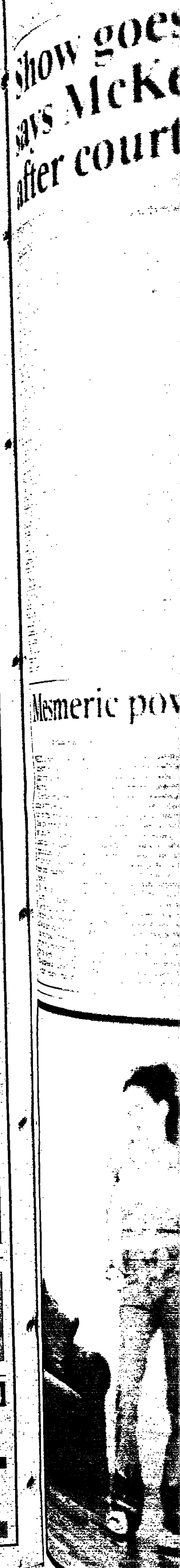
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# Show goes on, says McKenna after court win

### Performer hails judge's ruling in schizophrenia case as vindication of stage hypnosis. Deborah Colclough reports

PAUL MCKENNA promised yesterday to bring back his audience-participation hypnosis to Britain after being cleared of turning a stage volunteer into a schizophrenic.

A High Court judge ruled that Christopher Gates, who was seeking £250,000 in damages and lost earnings, had not proved his psychiatric illness was triggered by the hypnotic spell McKenna put him under four years ago.

McKenna, 34, a multimillionaire, said the verdict was a vindication of stage hypnosis but had cost him £1 million in lost business and sponsorship. He said he would not change the techniques he used to convince Mr Gates that he could strut like Mick Jagger, babble in an alien language and see through people's clothes using special glasses.

Mr Gates was admitted to a psychiatric hospital suffering an acute schizophrenic episode nine days after being hypnotised by McKenna, who described him in court as the "star of the show".

Yesterday McKenna said: "Everything stays the same. This includes the warning about who should not participate in my show. It was an adequate warning which the audience has to consider carefully before volunteering."

He added: "While we feel great sympathy for Mr Gates and his family, the verdict has



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and proper warning of the dangers involved."

Margaret Harper, of Campaign Against Stage Hypnosis, who believes that the death of her daughter, Sharon Tabern, was caused by a stage hypnotist, said: "This judge has opened the floodgates. Every entertainer in pubs, clubs and nightclubs across the country will now think it's okay to hypnotise people."

The combined court costs are estimated to be £500,000. Mr Gates was awarded legal aid but McKenna, who challenged that decision, will pay his own legal costs.

Yesterday McKenna said he planned a comeback in which he would even return to the theatre where Mr Gates was hypnotised. The Swan Theatre said it would welcome him back with open arms. Stuart Griffiths, the general manager, said: "He was always extremely good business for us and was so popular."

McKenna, who gave up live stage performances in Britain in 1995 because he was "toured out" after seven years on the road, said he missed the excitement of the stage. "It's like a certain food that you eat too much and can't see any more."

When you leave it for a while when you come back to it again, it tastes great again."

Even before Mr Gates served his writ, McKenna was plotting his career on tele-



Paul McKenna with his manager and former fiancée, Clare Staples, after his High Court victory yesterday

## Act 'was a trigger for illness waiting to happen'

CHRISTOPHER GATES was a latent schizophrenic whose illness would have developed at some stage in his life, according to medical evidence.

The 29-year-old French polisher was the star of Paul McKenna's show on March 10, 1994, strutting on stage like Mick Jagger and dancing like a ballerina. He also had to pretend to be an alien, and "babble incoherently".

In his witness statement, Mr Gates said: "I certainly did not believe that there was any risk of coming to any harm by being hypnotised, not even to any small extent. I had no fear at all. I thought I was in safe hands."

Within hours of returning to his home, Mr Gates started giggling and crying uncontrollably. Nine days later he was admitted to the psychiatric ward of his local hospital and diagnosed as a schizophrenic.

Edward Sedgewick, professor of neuropsychology at Southampton University, said: "The experience of Christopher Gates being hypnotised showed only that it triggered or unlocked the vul-



Gates: recalled a difficult childhood

# Mesmeric powers remain in realm of the unknown

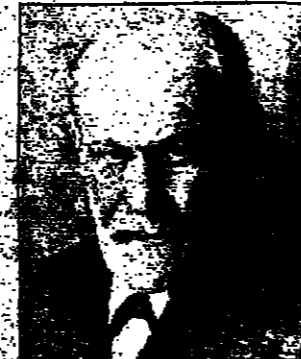
**BY DEBORAH COLCLOUGH**

MEDICAL research into the long-term health effects of stage hypnosis is only just beginning.

There have been just two studies of hypnotised participants in these shows and these have suggested that between a fifth to a third of subjects either have negative experiences during hypnosis or suffer effects which range from headaches to depression.

In one case, a hypnotherapist, a Manchester housewife, tried to kill herself twice after being hypnotised in 1994 at her local pub. She could not shake off the depression, that enveloped her after the hypnosis and still needs occasional counselling.

Doctors believe that the



Freud rejected therapeutic hypnosis because some of his patients failed to respond



techniques, excited the interest of Sigmund Freud, the founder of psycho-analysis, who visited France and was impressed by the therapeutic potential of hypnosis for neurotic disorders.

On his return to Vienna, Freud used hypnosis to help neurotics recall disturbing events they had apparently forgotten but he later rejected the practice because of the difficulty he experienced in hypnotising some patients.

The respectable branch of hypnosis, known as hypnotherapy, is used to alleviate patients' symptoms or to control pain. It is also used to conquer phobias, give up smoking or lose weight.

John Gruzelier, professor of psychology at Imperial College School of Medicine, London, said hypnosis and

hypnotherapy were used extensively and effectively throughout the medical profession. "There are a number of areas where hypnosis can be far more effective than conventional medicine or can be used to complement it. It's widely used to combat stress-related illnesses and to boost the immune system."

"In laboratory tests with students we were able to improve their health at exam time, despite the stress, with hypnosis. A study we have done also shows that cases of patients suffering from genital herpes were reduced by half after hypnosis."

He said the British Society of Medical and Dental Hypnosis ran regular courses for GPs and dentists who wanted to use hypnosis as part of their treatment.

nerability which then became schizophrenia rather than directly causing it. There is not a single report that says schizophrenia comes from hypnosis."

Doctors found no history of mental illness in the family. In his statement, he said he had been affected by the break-up of his parents' marriage. He described his childhood as very strict and recalled being beaten often by his mother, an alcoholic.

When he was 15, he was accused of sexual assault. "I found this experience extremely traumatic involving as it did a detailed interview in the presence of my father and having to explain intimately what I did."

He said that his first wife had confessed six weeks after their wedding that she was having an affair, and eventually left him.

Since developing the schizophrenia he has been taking medication and will probably do so for the rest of his life. He spends his days at his flat in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, and says that he is unable to motivate himself to do anything.

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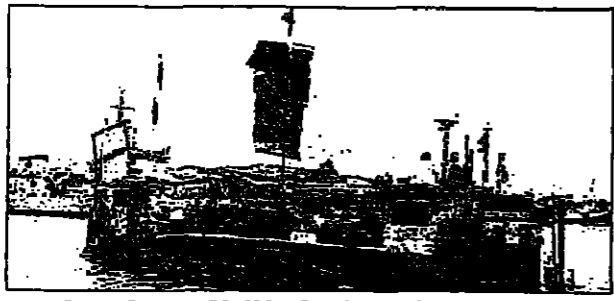
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Make money  
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# Hippy ideals that powered a pile of junk across Atlantic



Son of Town Hall in Castletownbere harbour  
63-day voyage in boat made from recycled rubbish 'the high point of my art'. Audrey Magee reports

THEY met ten years ago during a music festival in Canada: an ageing hippy, his wife, the manager of a hostel where they were staying, and an artist. This week, the four of them sailed into a harbour in southwest Ireland after a 63-day Atlantic crossing in a boat made from the rubbish discarded by New Yorkers.

"We didn't simply wake up one day and decide to cross the Atlantic," said Ed Garry, *Son of Town Hall's* 37-year-old skipper. "It evolved very gradually, but once it had set in we could not get rid of the idea."

That idea had surfaced when Mr Garry, a Canadian, met David, 65, and Betsy Pearlman, 46, who had taken their five children to Nova Scotia to busk, and their host, Roger Doncaster, 44. The four quickly discovered a common love of sailing and the two single men developed a great admiration for the Pearlman's attitudes to life. "They were not sitting back and letting things go by, but were making the most of life. We met initially through music but our relationship quickly turned to boats," Mr Garry said.

They began discussing the possibility of crossing the At-

lantic in one of Mr Pearlman's boats. The jazz musician, philosopher and artist had already made six boats out of recycled material. He, his wife, children and numerous dogs lived on them on the Hudson river.

They started working on the boat in 1992, naming it *Son of Town Hall* after one of Mr Pearlman's earlier constructions. *Town Hall*. The only rule during the design and building of the craft was that all the materials used had to have been discarded by others to highlight the wastage of the consumer society.

They completed the boat in 1994 and took it on its first voyage, travelling from New York to Provincetown, Massachusetts, the following summer. From there, the crew and their three dogs, two rottweilers (Thor and Sigfried) and a short-haired Mexican terrier (Willy). They had been aiming for France, where they still intend to go, but were blown off course after being becalmed: in 12 days they had travelled less than 200 miles of the 2,300-mile journey.

"It became a bit worrying because we had enough food for 90 days and at the rate we were going in early June it was



David and Betsy Pearlman celebrating their Atlantic crossing with a pint of stout at McCarthy's bar yesterday

going to take us 200," Mr Doncaster said. "We thought, 'What the hell, we'll end up somewhere - Europe, Asia or Iceland.' We knew we would hit land eventually."

In mid-Atlantic they were hit by a force nine gale. "I lived through levels of fear I never knew I had," said Mr Pearlman, who calls himself Poppino Neutrino after his family's jazz band, The Flying Neutrinos. When they survived the storm, he said that he knew he was safe.

"At times, in the middle of the ocean, I thought I was a silly old fool. But for years I've

been drawn to adventure like a moth to flame. It's part of my philosophy that all things can be many things, and that's why this voyage has been the high point of my art so far."

Mrs Pearlman, a jazz musician and painter from San Francisco who acted as cook and navigator, said: "There were no disasters because we were very thorough about what we did and we followed all the rules. We never left our cabins without our life jackets and never, ever went on deck without our harnesses. We were not reckless."

The bedraggled crew, who

still aspire to the ideals of the 1960s, circumvented most rows through negotiation. Mr Garry said: "We had our own cabins, so we had a place to go to be alone, but we were aware that being hemmed up in such a confined space for such a long time was difficult for everybody. We talked through any problems we had."

When not repairing sails and fiddling with the engine, the crew sang songs, played music and told stories. They also watched videos on their well-equipped craft: it has a self-steering, radar and a global positioning system.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### One-armed man swims ashore after boat sinks

A one-armed yachtsman was recovering last night after swimming 4½ miles in darkness and scaling a 150ft cliff when his boat sank. Bruno Jourden, 37, below, from Brittany, was taking part in the Solitaire du Figaro race from Cherbourg to Dublin when his boat, *Nintendo*, hit rocks off St David's Head, Pembrokeshire. He managed to put out a mayday signal before throwing himself into the water. Mr Jourden, who lost the use of his right arm in a road accident when he was 9, swam for several hours wearing a lifejacket and survival suit to reach the bottom of sheer cliffs at Gesall Bay. He was found on the cliffs by the Milford Haven coastguard, who had begun an air and sea search for him, and was given a check-up at Morriston Hospital in Swansea. "Everything happened very, very quickly," he said. "The sea was very rough at the time and swimming was extremely hard, especially with just one arm. Once I got ashore I had a rest in a little cave. Then I climbed up the cliff, where I knew I would be safe. I waited there for what seemed like hours until I heard the sound of the helicopter."



### Man killed wife after sex taunts

### Solicitor became pregnant by client

Thomas Reid, 41, was jailed for life by the High Court in Edinburgh after admitting the murder of his wife, Margaret, 42. Reid, a painter and decorator, from Edinburgh, had nursed his wife of 20 years through a long illness, but had been taunted about his sexual prowess after she recovered. He was said to have stabbed and beaten his wife to death, unable to take any more and believing his family of four children was being torn apart by arguments.

A solicitor was sacked after becoming pregnant by a client whose divorce case she was handling, an industrial tribunal in Middlesbrough was told. Katherine Scaife, 39, was dismissed for gross misconduct. She is claiming compensation for sex discrimination from Richard Knaggs, who runs the Redcar practice where she worked, alleging that he sacked her because she was pregnant, not because of the affair. The tribunal's findings will be issued later.

### Sailors meet boy they helped

A 12-year-old boy from Sierra Leone can look forward to a healthy life, thanks to the crew of a Royal Navy frigate. Sailors from *HMS Cornwall*, who raised £3,000 to send Hallasan Kamara to England for a life-saving operation to remove a giant tumour on his face, were reunited with him yesterday when their ship returned to Plymouth after a six-month mission to the war-torn West African state. When the crew first met Hallasan, he had trouble eating, breathing and talking and did not have long to live. The tumour was removed a month ago at the Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead, West Sussex. Hallasan, who will return home next Tuesday, said: "I can't wait to see my friends."

## Boy dies in drug clinic pool

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A BOY aged four drowned after falling into a swimming pool at a drug addiction treatment clinic, police said yesterday.

Angus Grimes, from Yeovil in Somerset, had been staying with his mother at the drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre near Bideford, Devon. The incident, which happened on Thursday, was described by police as a "tragic accident".

It is understood that the swimming pool at Hele House, Littleham, had been unused for a number of years and was full of dirty rainwater and leaves. Angus was discovered floating in the pool by his mother who raised the alarm after realising he was missing. A doctor and the air ambulance went to the scene, but attempts to resuscitate the child failed.

His distraught mother and father, who are separated, were being comforted by hospital staff yesterday. A spokesman for Somerset County Council, said the accident was being investigated by the county's social services department to discover who was responsible for referring the woman to the centre.

He said: "We will be looking into this although there are no suspicious circumstances. This would seem to be a tragic accident and we can only express our shock at this woman's loss."

Heale House, a private drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre owned by Rosemary Slee, has three registered care beds and seven hostel beds.

It was Mrs Slee who recovered Angus's body, but he never regained consciousness and died in hospital.

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# Owen's battle to make his mark

MICHAEL OWEN is facing a battle to protect what is — after his prodigious football talent — his most precious asset. The day after the World Cup final an opportunist with an eye on Owen's fantastic marketing potential applied to register the striker's name as a trademark.

The Patent Office has yet to examine an application by Michael Ellis, of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, on July 13 to exploit the footballer's public image to sell shoes, leisure wear and clothing. If an examiner accepts the applicant's case, Owen's name will be published in the *Trade-marks Journal*, forcing the player to object or risk losing control of a trade in Owen shirts and boots potentially worth millions of pounds.

The blow comes as sources close to Owen say that he is expected to sign two or three new contracts in the coming year, doubling his portfolio of commercial deals. Owen, 28, is believed to be the youngest person whose name has been lodged at the Patent Office for registration as a trademark. Even if the application fails, it is expected that, before he is 30, he will be referred to as Michael Owen.

He would be joining an elite group of footballers including Alan Shearer, Ryan Giggs and the retired Manchester United star Eric Cantona whose names are so valuable that they are classified as intellectual property. David Seaman, the England goalkeeper, has had "Safe Hands" accepted by the Patent Office as his trademark.

Helen Hollier, at Tony Stephens Associates, Owen's agents, said: "Obviously other players have their names registered as trademarks. It would be something that Michael would do."

Opportunists often register trademarks that are likely to become valuable so that they can sell them to the perceived rightful owner. Ted Blake, of the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents, said: "People go on holiday and think, 'That's a good product, I'll register it as a trademark and if they come here they will have to buy it off me for millions of pounds.'" Timing is everything. The

## England's young striker is having to defend the rights to his own name, Dominic Kennedy reports

family of Diana, Princess of Wales, were beaten in their attempts to turn her into a trademark by people who, within hours of her death, were applying for the rights to her name and sobriquets such as the People's Princess.

Owen made such an impressive start to his international career in the World Cup that João Havelange, former president of football's governing body Fifa, has made an unprecedented request to England for a replica of the striker's No 20 shirt. Within a year he is predicted to enter



FOOTBALL SATURDAY Pages 32-35

the world's top five earners in football, making between £8 million and £10 million and overtaking Shearer, as well as David Beckham.

The present highest earners are all Brazilians. Luiz Nazario de Lima, otherwise known as Ronaldo, leads the field with an annual £20.5 million, followed by Denilson de Oliveira, Rivaldo and Roberto Carlos, according to *BusinessAge* magazine.

Their enormous earnings from transfer fees and club salaries are often matched by the amounts they get from sponsorship and promotion of products including sports-

wear and computer games. Owen has only two commercial contracts: a six-year deal with Umbro sportswear worth £5 million, and one with Tissot Watches of Switzerland for an estimated £100,000 a year. Both were signed before the World Cup.

He has already turned down a reported £30 million in sponsorship deals in the month since France 98, but will probably sign a further two or three contracts with blue-chip companies during the Premiership season that begins today. If he follows the lead of sports stars such as Gary Lineker, David Ginola and the boxer Prince Naseem, who all have lucrative contracts to endorse products from crisps to shampoo, he will become exceedingly rich.

The conditions for accepting a deal are that the products must be non-conflicting, so he would be unlikely to promote rival brands of soft drinks, and that they must use his image more than his time. Owen's associates say that he wants to stay focused on his football.

Since the World Cup finals, he has started a column for the *News of the World* rumoured to be worth £120,000 a year. He has also taken delivery of a Jaguar XK8 convertible worth £55,000. Shearer and Beckham, also on the books of Tony Stephens Associates, have the same model. The value of this kind of deal to a motor manufacturer is shown by yesterday's *Daily Star*, which devoted its front page and two inside pages to pictures of Beckham parking his new car.

*BusinessAge* estimates that Beckham earned £8.1 million last year and Shearer £7.75 million. Sponsorship deals typically include a large signing-on fee, so both players' incomes are expected to decline in the coming year, after the advertising frenzy that preceded the World Cup. Tony Stephens Associates' greatest coup has been to get Umbro to pay £25 million for a 14-year deal ending when Shearer is 42 and, presumably, retired.

Additional reporting by Kate Evans

### A FORTUNE AT HIS FEET

How Michael Owen could cash in by following the stars and allow brands to sponsor various parts of his anatomy and life

- £60,000: David Ginola: L'Oréal
- £1m: David Beckham: Brylcreem
- £25,000: 911 boy band: Clearasil
- £500,000: Alan Shearer: Braun electric shavers
- £80,000: Desmond Lynem: Rightguard
- £1m: Spice Girls: impulse
- £350,000 (plus lifetime supply of Big Macs): Alan Shearer: McDonalds
- £100,000: Prince Naseem: Audi cars
- £1m: Prince Naseem: Arab Milk Marketing Boards
- £600,000: Jason Priestley: Pepe Jeans
- £1.5m: Alan Shearer: Lucozade
- £100,000: Prince Naseem: Sony video games
- £100,000: Prince Naseem: Joe Bloggs clothes
- £60,000: Marky Mark: Calvin Klein

#### WHAT HE HAS

- £5 million over 6 years: for Umbro Sportswear
- £100,000 per annum (estimate): for Tissot Swiss watches
- £120,000 per annum (estimate): for News of the World

Jaguar XK8 convertible worth £55,000

## Heroes of the past didn't net a fortune

MICHAEL OWEN could retire tomorrow and live in comfort for the rest of his life, but footballers of his father's generation never expected their short soccer careers to be the end of their working life.

Owen has Jimmy Hill to thank for his fortune. Until Hill, a Fulham player and chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association, won his campaign to abolish the maximum wage of £20 a week in 1961, few players had cars and old heroes would die in penury. Sir Stanley Matthews ran a boarding house and picked up money for articles in the *Sunday Express*.

Sir Geoff Hurst, who scored



Sir Geoff: turned to career in insurance

a hat-trick for England in the 1966 World Cup final, had to pursue a career in car insurance. Of the other 1966 heroes, Ray Wilson became an undertaker and Roger Hunt has a business in Liverpool. Bobby Moore was full of enterprises that seemed to go up in smoke. A country club he owned did so literally. He became "Mooro", sports columnist of the *Sport* newspaper.

As Mr. Micawber might warn, high annual income still results in misery if it is accompanied by even higher expenditure. Or as George Best, who earns his money as an after-dinner speaker, puts it: "I spent a lot of my money on booze, birds and fast cars. The rest I just squandered."

The trouble with closing your business at night

that 3 billion pote

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Ballroom blitz attracts thousands as new Olympic sport sheds its lacquered *Come Dancing* image

# Take your partners for dance marathon

By RUTH GLEDHILL

UP TO 3,000 dancers, many of them aged under 40, will descend on the Royal Festival Hall tomorrow for seven hours of non-stop ballroom dancing.

The event, run by Peggy Spencer, is the climax of the three-week £90,000 "Blitz 98" and will feature both Olympic-style "dance sport" and social ballroom dancing. It comes as dance promoters report a resurgence of interest in social and competitive dancing, thought to be the result of Olympic recognition granted last year.

Fortnum and Mason announced yesterday that it was to introduce twice-weekly tea dances with a live orchestra in its St James's restaurant in October. The Savoy reintroduced big band dancing this

summer, and tea dances at the Waldorf in London are regular sellouts, sometimes weeks in advance.

Piers Marlow-Thomas, of Fortnum and Mason, said: "There is a huge interest in social dancing. It is part of a long-running campaign we have to rebuild interest in tea. When you help people to make the link between tea and dancing, it becomes very obvious. People like to have the opportunity to do something slightly different."

No research has been done into the number of ballroom dancers in Britain, although estimates vary from 500,000 to five million. There are about 3,000 registered dance sport competitors.

But, according to John Leach, the editor of *Dance News*, individual schools, such as the Manchester-based one run by the promoter Nigel Hourrocks, are being filled to capacity by social dancers and do not have space to meet the demand.

The British Dance Council, based in Terpsichore House, London, which oversees the professional side of ballroom dancing, has been holding a series of meetings with teachers and coaches to discuss how better to market ballroom dancing.

At the same time, dance associations, through the Central Council for Physical Recreation, are lobbying to have it introduced to primary and secondary schools as part of the sports curriculum.

Jonathan Crossley, 24, who, with his partner Kylie Jones, 20, will be demonstrating the



Rupert Mellor and Jayne Dowle: they say ballroom dancing is cool and radical

art of competitive dance sport at the Festival Hall tomorrow, and who will represent England in the United States open championships next month, said: "Ballroom dancing is definitely changing."

"On the dance sport side, it has become exceptionally competitive," he added. "People are starting to think of it more as a sport, rather than associate it with people in

funny outfits going round the floor."

However, he drew a distinction between social and competitive dancing: "I started dancing when I was four. I also played football and could have become a professional footballer. When I was 15 I was invited to Arsenal for a day."

"Dancing is not just a game to us. I have never danced

socially. I always dance for a reason, and that is to win if it is a competition, or to improve if it is a practice."

Admittance to Peggy Spencer's *Blitz 98* at the Festival Hall, which will also include demonstrations by two formation teams from Wales and by amateur Latin champions Matthew and Nicole Cutler, is free.

## Why cheek-to-cheek is chic

Jayne Dowle loves a chance to show off

AS A child in the 1970s, I adored watching dancing on television. The synchronised glitter of *Sunday Night At The London Palladium*, the cleverly co-ordinated outfits of *Seaside Special* and — treat of treats — the big frocks and impossible hairdos of *Come Dancing*. Show me a couple cha-cha-ing in nothing more than a catsuit and a wisp of glitter and I was enthralled.

By 14, though, I was more concerned with acquiring the latest Cure single. The ballroom bug didn't bite again until the second year of university. I had a friend and together we were dynamite. Or thought we were. Every party, every ball, we threw ourselves across dance floors without a formal step between us. When a sign went up for ballroom dancing lessons, that was it.

The waltz was our speciality and, after six weeks of hell and private tuition, we came second in the inter-collegiate competition. There was talk of

university level, but the looming threat of finals put paid to that.

I didn't dance properly again until last year. A chance conversation with a colleague and an invitation to the Kivoli Ballroom in Crofton Park, southeast London, and all the old excitement came back: the legitimised showing-off, the discipline and the sheer thrill of learning something physical when I spend all day at a desk. I coerced a partner and started lessons again and now go dancing at least once a month.

And I'm not the only one. Ballroom dancing for pleasure is increasingly popular with those in their late twenties and early thirties. But big beat nights are in little danger of being invaded by couples

tangoing through the dry ice. Diversity of choice is the point of Nineties club culture.

The club explosion of the late 1980s and 1990s created a climate where anything went and cabaret provided a welcome relief to boring shoe-gazing. It was smart to dress up and look as if you cared, to watch a floor-show in a sweaty nightclub. Then the easy-listening boom developed. It became fashionable to listen to Burt Bacharach and go to clubs where you could dress as your mother did in 1965.

But what is the appeal for me now that I've grown out of wanting a big *Come Dancing* frock? Well, the fun aside, it has to be the look on a style victim's face when you tell them what you did on Saturday night. For what such "trendsetters" don't realise is that being outrageously uncool is just about the coolest thing you can do.

□ The author is the editor of *The Times Metro* section

## Strictly for supersmoothies

Rupert Mellor on the joys of being cheesy

I AM A 31-year-old male, in good health and sound mind, and I am a ballroom dancing enthusiast. What's more, I'm not alone. If you want to stay a step ahead in the clubbing stakes, there's no statement more radical than a saucy tango. Ballroom or Argentinian, it doesn't matter. The new punk, ladies and gentlemen, is ballroom dancing.

For me, it all began one summer evening in 1992, when I was knocked out from frame one of Baz Luhrmann's *Strictly Ballroom* and became part of the generation who saw that film and said "I really must learn."

Two years later, I had become a member of a still newer generation — who saw *Strictly Ballroom*, said "I really must learn," and never got round to it. But finally I booked a place on "Brian's Ballroom For Beginners" at London's Drill Hall. And never looked back.

I thought I'd only ever get to step out at weddings, but opportunities to practise my

crowd" long before ravers ditched their Nikes for Gucci loafers. And asking strangers if they'd care to cha-cha-cha.

What hasn't been invited back is the stiffness, the formality, the prissiness, of the ballroom of yore. I want to trot out the kind of supersmooth tango that James Bond would be proud of, not grin and glide like one of those lacquered peacocks on *Come Dancing*.

So is ballroom poised to sweep the nation? Or have I merely stumbled into a tea-dancing underground that always existed? Six of one, half a dozen of the other, I'd say. If you're holding out for a sequinned revolution, don't shine your dancing shoes just yet. But an evening of Latin is definitely easier to find than five years ago. And if you can't find a wedding guest with a few moves up her sleeve, well, perhaps you're not trying hard enough.

This is no wholesale rerun of a bygone era of bow-ties and beehives. My generation has done its cultural duty: we chucked out our cultural inheritance in our youth and now, at the safe distance of more than a decade, can reimpose the bits we like. Such as over-orchestrated pop music. And sharp outfits ("loungecore" evenings saw the return of the "dressed-up

□ The author is the editor of *The Times Meg@* section



Dancing at Claridge's in the early 1900s

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Dancing at Claridge's in the early 1900s

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# No tickets to ride as London gets smart

£1bn electronic card system is given green light, writes Arthur Leathley

THE prospect of being able to travel around by bus, Underground and even taxi without having to show a ticket, gaining loyalty bonuses in the process, came nearer reality for millions of passengers yesterday when the world's biggest smartcard system for a transport network was unveiled.

The £1 billion deal to revolutionise travel in London is the precursor of a national electronic transport ticket. It will enable passengers to pass through ticket gates and on to buses without removing the cards from their wallets or handbags.

The smartcards can be topped up with funds directly from a bank account - including via telephone banking - ending the need for tickets to be bought in person.

The smartcards, initially available to regular travellers on London Underground and buses, are expected to be

enabling smartcard use will be "limited to the first of 180 Underground stations that do not have automatic barriers.

The cards are designed to end the "fumble factor" in which queues quickly build up because passengers are searching for cash or tickets.

For the transport operator, the benefits are far greater. The cards, which carry a photograph of the user, reduce invalid travel to negligible levels. Already, electronic gates on London Underground are thought to have reduced the amount of ticket fraud by £30 million a year.

The cards also enable transport companies to build up a profile of travel patterns. However, TransSys insists that users will not be identifiable individually.

By 2000, new ticket machines will be installed at Tube and bus stations and hundreds of retail outlets including newsagents. Ticket machines at busy stations will also offer touch-screen information and a multilingual service.

The smartcards are expected to be in use across the capital by 2002 for passengers buying season tickets, whether annually or weekly. The existing tickets with magnetic strips will continue to be used, probably indefinitely.

The TransSys consortium includes EDS, the controversial US-based information technology company that was accused last year by Labour MPs of having too great a dominance of government services. The company has contracts worth nearly £3 billion to run computer services for the Inland Revenue, Department for Education and Employment and the Social Security Department. Other consortium members are ICL, the leading computer company; WSA, a systems time transport management consultant; and Cubic Corporation, the world leader in automated ticket systems.

Contactless smartcards are already used on transport systems in Hong Kong, Moscow and Seoul, as well as smaller schemes in Britain. Hertfordshire County Council, in alliance with Transmo, a local company, has introduced cards that can be used to pay for services such as parking and school meals.



New name, same anorak: trainspotters now prefer to call themselves griers

# Old trainspotter who returned sadder but wiser

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE language of train-spotting has changed so much that a middle-aged enthusiast returning to his youthful passion found that he could hardly communicate with the new breed.

Rod Warrington, 54, from Chester, who had not scribbled down an engine number for 15 years, decided to write a spotters' dictionary after being at a loss for words on his favourite line across the moors between Settle and Carlisle. His *Trainspotters' Almanac* is the result.

Mr Warrington, 54, said: "I was told that 'griering' was now the correct term for what we would be doing. Apparently 'trainspotting' had become passé. There's a lot more jargon these days that I have never heard of. I had to write this dictionary so more people can get involved and enjoy it as much as I do."

Although the new Oxford dictionary out this week includes "grieries" it offers no explanation for its origins.

and nor can Mr Warrington. Among other in-jargon is the derogatory "festoons" for those collectors of train pictures and sounds often seen covered in cameras and tape recorders.

The festoons in turn ridicule the number collectors as "bashers", who can be subdivided into steam bashers, wagon bashers and even line bashers, who get their thrills riding different routes.

Signals are known as "pegs" or "sticks" and engines with a gap between boiler and main chassis are "doughnuts". The name "chopper" denotes one class of engines from the noise it makes, and "nodding donkeys" means a bumpy ride.

A railwayman at Settle station said yesterday: "I have recently heard a few spotters use 'griering' and some other words I haven't heard before. It's not the same as it was. The older ones did it to relax, but now it seems to be a bit of a competition."

THE SUNDAY TIMES  
JULIAN BARNES' NEW NOVEL



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Exclusive pre-publication extract from *England*, by Julian Barnes  
THE SUNDAY TIMES tomorrow

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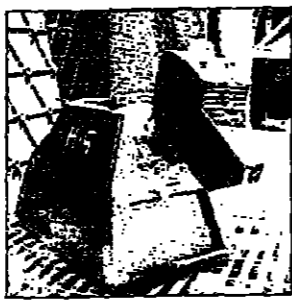
# No barks, bites or fleas with Rover the robot

AIMING to improve on nature, engineers at electronics giant Sony have created a robot dog that is obedient, house-trained and guaranteed not to bite.

The dog that emerged from the laboratory after four years of hush-hush research can walk, run, chase a ball, sit up and beg, all in response to voice commands. In place of a brain, the hi-tech canine is endowed with a micro-computer; an ultra-sensitive camera and microphone take the place of eyes and ears. Conspicuously missing from Sony's "Dog for the 21st Century" is anything resembling a mouth. This is expected to be a big selling point for people who like the idea of owning a dog, but not the chores of feeding, watering and cleaning up after it.

"We wanted to produce a trouble-free animal companion for home entertainment," says Gene Huh, of Sony's planning department. "The robot dog is ideal for yuppies and other people who want a pet without the mess."

Hi-tech canine is likely to be a millennial must, writes Robert Whyment in Tokyo



Prototype: Dr Who's K9

live in cramped apartments, where rules forbid the keeping of pets. Mr Huh points out: Deprived of the company of a dog or cat, many will leap at the chance to own an anorexic substitute that does not smell, sheds no hairs, and only barks when its internal battery is running low.

Sony shies away from boastful claims, but by all accounts this will be the first sophisticated home robot for the mass market. The images and sounds picked up by the camera and microphone are processed by a central processing unit, which controls individual motors inside the neck.

legs and tail. The robot reproduces various movements of a dog, following patterns set by computer programs.

Sony hopes to put its clean dog on the market around the year 2000. In the meantime, engineers who developed the prototype in the laboratory codenamed "D21" — a dream of the 21st century — are under orders to keep their creation under wraps. Requests by *The Times* to see the robot prototype were refused "because many things still have to be improved", according to a company spokesman. Yoshikazu Ochiai, Just how intelligent the dog

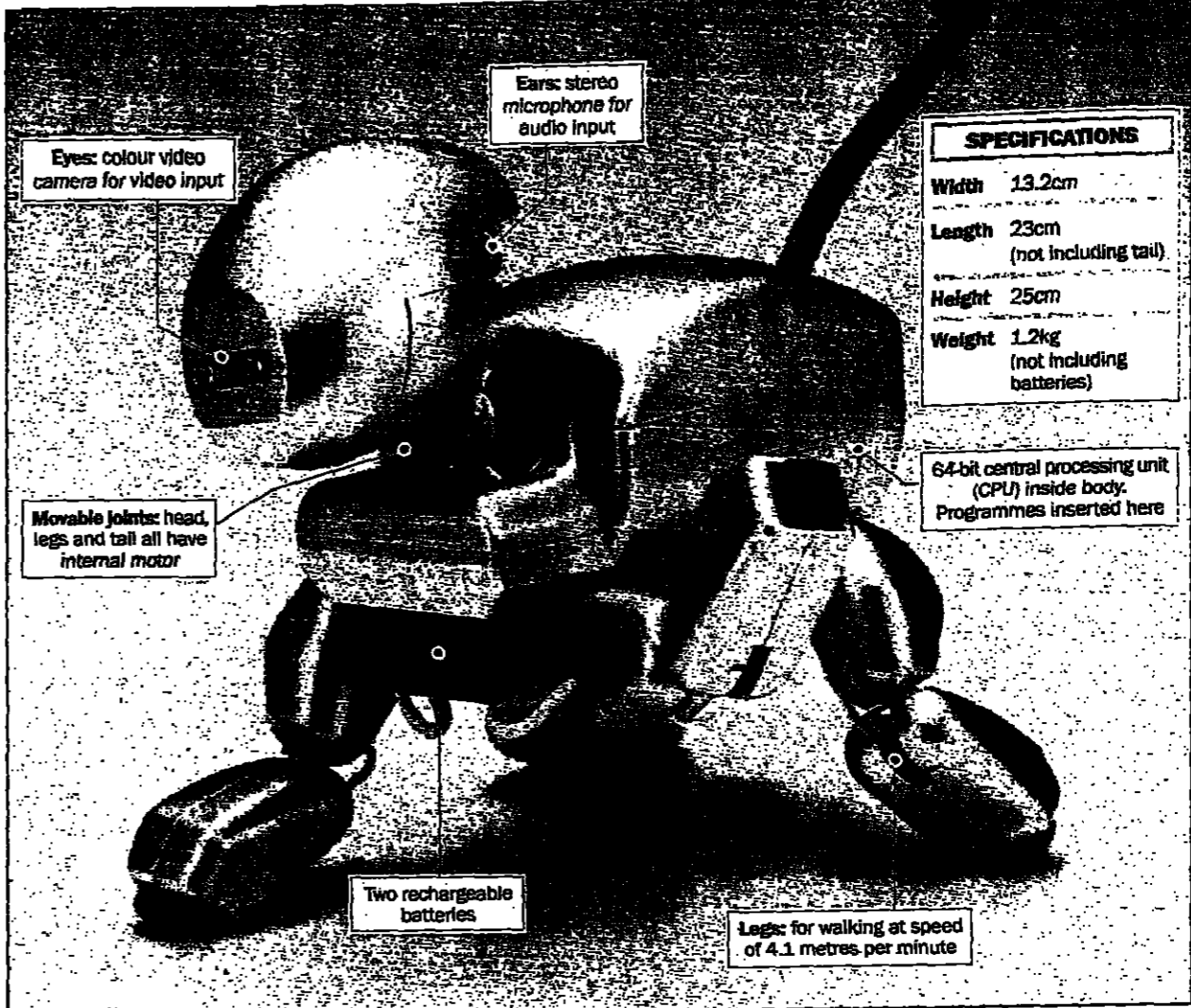
will be is clearly a bone of contention. One of the initial teething troubles was to devise software that could teach the robot to recognise its name and turn round on cue.

"Whether the robot dog is more intelligent than a real dog will depend on what programmes we can install," said Mr Ochiai.

Also in need of improvement, he admits, is the robot's steely appearance. Cuddling the robot is like wrapping one's arms around a can of lubricant.

The robot's most unusual feature is its multiple identities. The head and limbs have their own motor and control chip and can be interchanged. So when the owner wears of keeping a dog, he has only to screw on different modules, and the dog turns into a lizard, or rabbit or — the ultimate indignity — a cat.

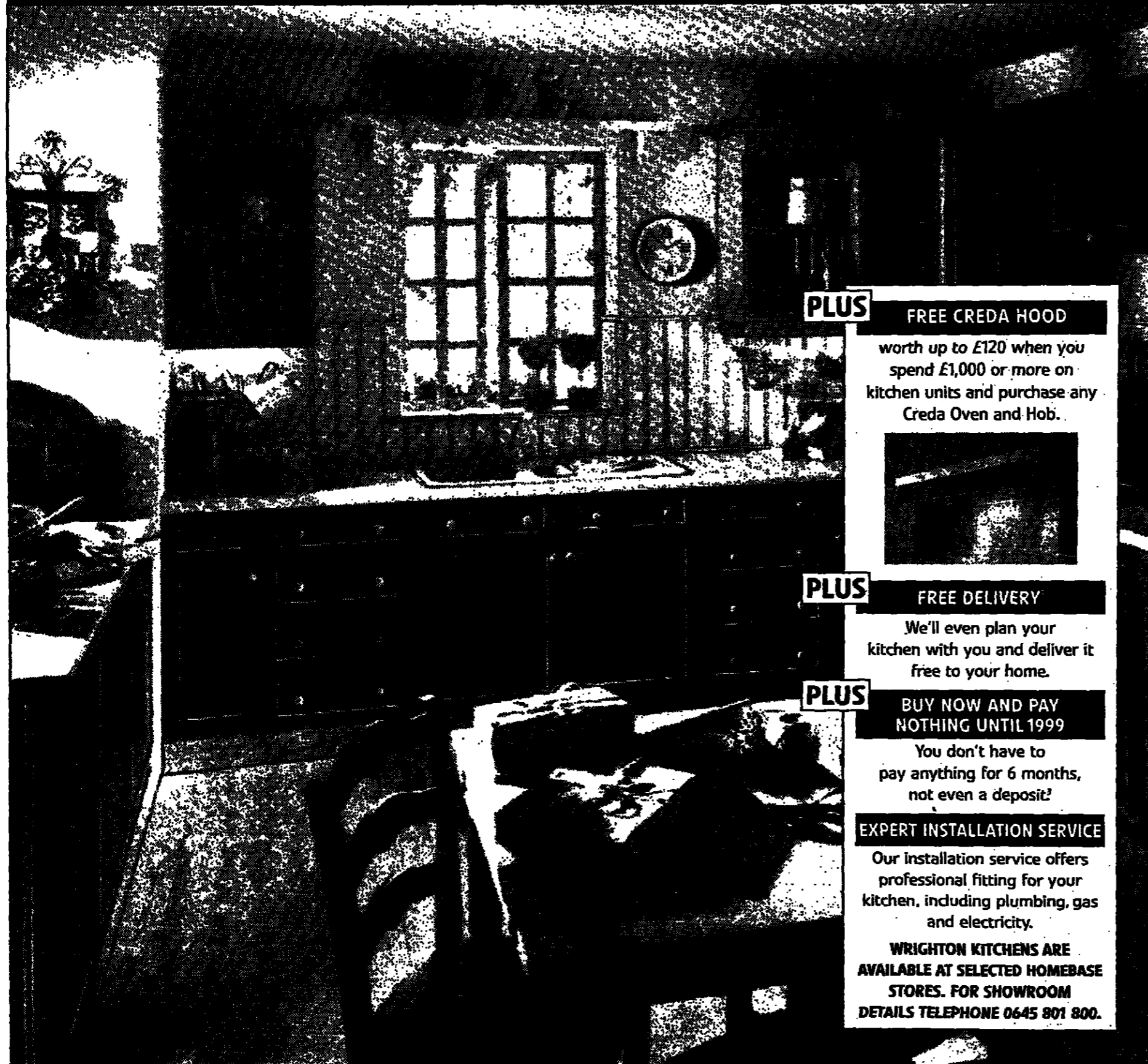
This new generation of home entertainment will not come cheap. Sony says early buyers may pay "almost as much as for a small car" for the novelty of owning a robot Rover.



SPECIFICATIONS	
Width	13.2cm
Length	23cm (not including tail)
Height	25cm
Weight	1.2kg (not including batteries)

Sony's new computer canine will chase a ball or sit when asked, but cleaning up will be a thing of the past

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## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Crisis deepens in New Zealand

Wellington: The fate of New Zealand's coalition Government was in the balance today after Jenny Shipley, the Prime Minister, sacked Winston Peters, the Treasurer and her deputy (Astrid Smeele writes). Mrs Shipley said she was prepared to govern as a minority administration. To date, her National Party has been supported by New Zealand First. But the 19-month-old, centre-right Government was thrown into turmoil on Wednesday when Mr Peters and four other NZ First ministers walked out of a Cabinet meeting in protest at plans to sell the state's 66 per cent stake in Wellington international airport.

To run an effective administration, Mrs Shipley will need to persuade at least eight New Zealand First MPs in the 120-seat Parliament to join her forces.

### Balloonist's wind of change

Steve Fossett's hopes of circumnavigating the world in a balloon are rising (Gabriella Gammari writes). After days trapped in a slow wind zone over the Indian Ocean, he was reported to have successfully manoeuvred his helium balloon towards faster winds. To achieve this, the American had to take his Solo Spirit balloon to 28,000ft, the highest altitude of his seven-day flight. Rob Rice, chief meteorologist at the mission control centre in St Louis, Missouri, said: "We are still in the race for a global flight."

### Floods menace oilfield

Beijing: Floodwaters on the Nen River in northeast China burst a dyke, threatening the nearby Daqing oilfield, the country's largest producing one million barrels a day. Xinhua news agency reported. About 200,000 workers toiled round the clock to build new flood defences after the Nen ripped a 1,640ft hole in the dyke. Another 20,000 people were evacuated before the dyke burst. The agency said that the majority of the 20,000 wells were still operating normally. (Reuters)

### Copernicus book stolen

Kiev: A rare book by the Polish astronomer Copernicus, first published in 1543 has been stolen from Ukraine's National Vernadsky Library. "There are only eight or ten known copies of this work in the world," Aleksei Onishenko, director of the library, said. *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres*, in which Copernicus said the Sun, not the Earth, was centre of the universe, was written in Latin. (Reuters)



### Burma expels activists

Rangoon: Eighteen foreign activists were sentenced to five years in prison with hard labour for handing out pro-democracy leaflets, but will be deported from Burma today. Moments after a judge sentenced the activists — six Americans, three Malaysians, three Indonesians, three Thais, two Filipinos and one Australian — an official from the Ministry of Home Affairs read an order reducing the sentences and saying they would be expelled on condition they would not violate Burmese laws again. AP

### Child-eating wolves hunted

Lucknow: Government-appointed hunters are scouring the countryside in India's most populous state for wolves that have killed 30 village children aged between one and nine since March. The hunters combing jungles around villages in the northern Uttar Pradesh province have so far killed 11 wolves. "Operation Wolftrack" was launched shortly when the first killing was reported. Similar killings of wolves in 1996 after attacks on children led to protests from animal rights activists in the state. (AP)

### 'Molester' swimming ban

Tokyo: A village north of Tokyo has banned all its 573 foreign residents from using a local pool, claiming that some non-Japanese swimmers molested children. The village elders of Azuma banned them from using the public pool until further notice. A village official said that a foreign man touched a schoolgirl at the pool and five others pulled a girl into the water on July 11. (Reuters)

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JAMES BONE'S NEW YORK



Stealing a march on the runway

THE "fashionistas" of New York are plotting a runway revolution that will put the city ahead of London, Milan and Paris as the couture capital of the world.

Lang's gambit provoked a mixture of consternation and excitement in the garment district, with some designers welcoming the chance to beat Europe to the punch and others worrying that they would not have time to assemble their collections.



Helmut Lang: fashion gambit



Helmut Lang's outfits won Paris. Now he plans to leapfrog France in a calendar coup

Price of sacrifice

GREEDY property agents and restaurateurs in the upmarket Upper East Side are rubbing their hands at the prospect of "the Goldman Effect".

scoping the pool with as much as \$200 million. The 211 managing directors who have yet to be partners could bag up to \$15 million each.



Tina Brown has started laying down the first pieces of what she calls the "editorial DNA" of her new monthly magazine.

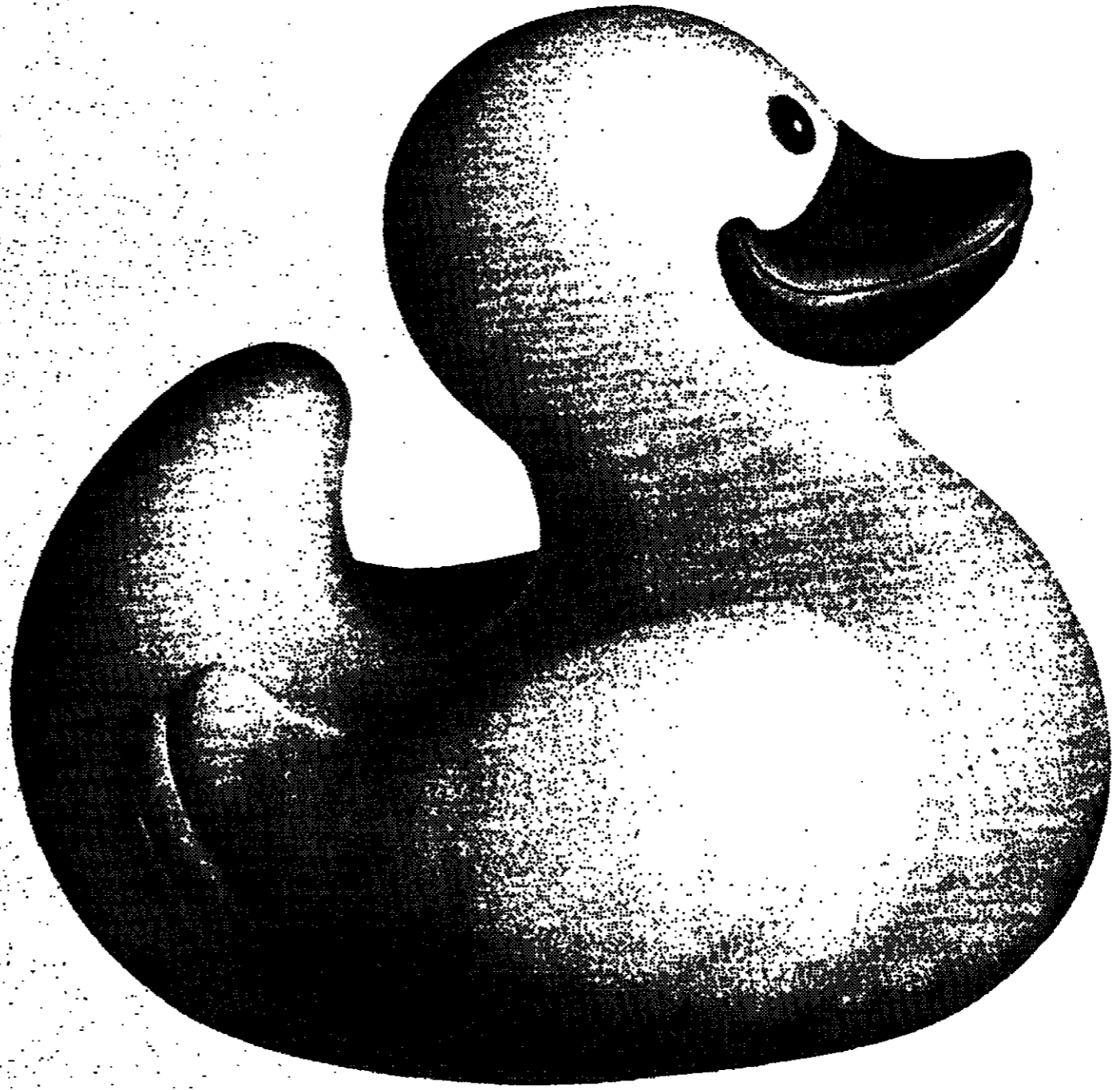
The city is braced for an invasion of self-styled gangsters for a Million Youth March organised by a notorious black anti-Semite.

Cat's backtrack



THE "Bride of Wildenstein", the surgically enhanced star of the latest celebrity divorce, has become an icon on the club circuit.

After his amusing BBC documentaries on British taste, Nick Barker is focusing on New York mating habits.



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SEX AND THE PRESIDENT

# Clinton hopes to slip through legal loophole

What constitutes sexual relations is central to the US leader's claim that he never had an affair with 'that woman', writes Ian Brodie in Washington

PRESIDENT Clinton's narrow meaning of what does and does not constitute sexual relations was forcing Americans yesterday into reading and hearing graphic definitions not normally encountered outside the pornography business.

This astonishing — and widely unappreciated — candour about presidential sex ratified a sea-change from a country that once kept the mating game hidden behind a veil of rectitude.

Well into the 1950s Hollywood lived by the Hayes Code that consigned even married couples to twin beds and dictated that at least one foot had to remain firmly on the floor in any romantic clinch. The prevailing view yesterday was that the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal had taken the romance and mystery out of sex. "Yuck" said a headline in *The Washington Post* over an article expressing public disgust.

To understand the linguistic loophole through which Mr Clinton is thinking of wriggling, it is necessary to examine the clinical but limited definition of "sexual relations" admitted into the Paula Jones case last January by Judge Susan Webber Wright.

It said: "For the purposes of this deposition, a person engages in 'sexual relations' when the person knowingly engages in or causes: (1) Contact with the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh or buttocks of any person with an intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person."

Robert Bennett, Mr Clinton's adroit lawyer in the Jones case, persuaded the judge to eliminate two other definitions as being too broad. They were: "(2) Contact be-

tween any part of the person's body or an object and the genitalia or anus of another person; or (3) contact between the genitalia or anus of the person and any part of another person's body. 'Contact' means intentional touching, either directly or through clothing."

Mr Bennett argued that these two clauses could include such innocent gestures as shaking hands. Judge Wright agreed and limited the definition to Section 1 only.

Mr Clinton, a lawyer himself, fully understood the nuances. When asked if he ever had sexual relations with Jennifer Flowers, something he had never admitted beyond saying he had caused pain in his marriage, he replied: "The answer to your question, if the definition is Section 1 — there in the first piece of paper you gave me — is yes."

The questioning continued: Paula Jones's lawyer: Did you have an extramarital sexual affair with Monica Lewinsky? Mr Clinton: No. Q: If she told someone that she had a sexual affair with you beginning in November 1995, would that be a lie? A: It's certainly not the truth.

It would not be the truth. Q: I think I used the term "sexual affair" and, so the record is completely clear, have you ever had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky? A: I have never had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky. I've never had an affair with her. Mrs Jones's lawyers did not press the President about oral sex. Mr Clinton went on to repeat the careful formula of saying he never had "sexual relations" with Ms Lewinsky when he issued his public denial and referred to her as "that woman". The Clinton argument apparently claims that the oral sex Ms Lewinsky reportedly performed on him does not qualify as sexual relations under Section 1 of the definition agreed to by Judge Wright, a former law student of the President. Therefore, he did not commit perjury. According to *The New York Times*, White House discussions of this strategy have been extensive enough to include its major political drawback in any public admission of sexual contact. It would reinforce his critics' view of Mr Clinton as a lawyerly manipulator of language, using it in a way to evade responsibility, and as someone who may be technically truthful but not fundamentally honest.

There were earlier suggestions that Mr Clinton did not consider oral sex as adulterous and that the Bible could back him up. This intriguing notion has been described as widespread among Mr Clinton's fellow Southern Baptists when he was growing up in Arkansas. A woman of Mr Clinton's age described the

sexual parameters of her youth: "There was a distinction between 'going all the way' and very heavy petting. It was a mind game. You could do everything else without guilt, but once there was penetration you were a slut." It was based on a Puritan view of purity. Today's American teenagers are far less coy. They are apt to

leave condoms issued to them at school on the dining room table at home. For all that, the alleged presidential dalliance strikes Americans as tawdry. As a majority of them see it, a besotted, delusional and adolescent young woman threw herself at a powerful figure who did not have the courage to say: "This is wrong, go and



CLINTON'S WOMEN

### Paula Jones

IT ALL started here. Mrs Jones, a former state clerk in Arkansas, brought a sexual harassment case against Mr Clinton, claiming that she was taken to his hotel room by state troopers and he then demanded that she perform oral sex on him. After all manner of claims about "distinguishing marks" in his genital area, the case was dismissed on the ground that she had failed to show that she had suffered harm at work. It was here, however, that Ms Lewinsky first cropped up. She was one of a number of women called to give evidence as Mrs Jones's lawyers tried to establish a pattern of improper conduct by the President. Mrs Jones was back in the news this week with the story of her nose job.



### Linda Tripp

A FORMER White House employee who trusted Monica Lewinsky into the twilight when she merged with her former friend while wired for sound, the tapes apparently disclose the intimacy of Ms Lewinsky's relationship with the "big creep". Ms Tripp, who was attacked for her links to the Republican movement, became the most unpopular woman in the country. After testifying before the grand jury for eight days, she emerged from the courthouse to tell the nation: "It just like you suburban mom. I have been vilified for telling the truth. She complained that chat show hosts had been unkind to mock her appearance, which is that of a slightly sinister woman."

BIG hair, big mouth, big trouble. Monica Lewinsky, a Beverly Hills babe turned ultimate Washington insider, has testified that she and the President had an affair, but that he did not tell her to lie to cover it up. Her most famous possession is The Dress that may, or may not, be stained with the President's semen. For her birthday she said she wanted her life back. Unlikely.



## Mother's gambling instinct may yet save son

By Ian Brodie

THE late mother of President Clinton loved to gamble and it seems as if a sizeable chunk of that instinct resides in her son's genes.

Not inhaling marijuana, not serving in the armed forces during Vietnam, not having an affair with Jennifer Flowers and possibly as many as a dozen others, he is a man who has often veered close to the edge in his political career, only to save himself at the last minute. If he does offer a *mea culpa* apology over his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, he could again glide away from catastrophe.

There is scant appetite on Capitol Hill for going through the process of impeaching the President over his alleged relationship with Ms Lewinsky. It does not rank anywhere close in seriousness to Watergate, when Richard Nixon and his accomplices were trying to undermine the very foundations of the republic's "We The People" system.

True, this is said to be about perjury in Paula Jones's civil suit, but it is really about sex and, as Jerry Seinfeld, America's top comedian, has said: "Everybody lies about sex. Everybody even lies during sex."

Republicans who control both the House and Senate could certainly make the most of causing the President humiliation over his indiscretions with Ms Lewinsky. If the Republicans retain control after the November election, they can be expected to hold hearings on the report that Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, is expected to send to them.

It will, however, apparently dwell mostly on Ms Lewinsky and will not find any serious presidential misconduct over the Whitewater land speculation, the egregious White House travel office sacking and the snafelling of FBI files on leading Republicans.

Nothing, in short, worth impeaching a President over.



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as rebel  
advance  
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British  
bomb team  
joins UN  
in Nairobi

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# Kinshasa black-out as rebels advance on capital



President Kabila is relying on a ragtag army of children and unarmed volunteers, writes Sam Kiley from Kinshasa

KINSHASA was yesterday turned into Africa's biggest village as rebels shut down electricity to the Congolese capital, forcing tens of thousands of women to fill buckets from the polluted waters of the River Congo.

Carrying brightly coloured containers on their heads, the women of Kinshasa were reduced to using river water for 18 hours after the Inga hydro-electric dam, about 150 miles south-east of the Democratic Republic of Congo's capital, fell to the rebels on Thursday, shutting down water pumping stations.

The psychological impact of the rebel gains in the west of the former Zaire has been devastating in Kinshasa, which was reconnected to a power station yesterday afternoon. "If the rebels can make us feel like we are living in the bush, they won't take long before they take over," said Jean-François Mbenda, a cigarette hawk.

"The electricity has been restored from our dam at Inga to the whole of Kinshasa," state radio announced shortly before midday yesterday when it returned to the airwaves. Elek Botuna, the Energy Minister, appeared on television and said: "The breakdown was a problem at the distribution section of Inga." He made no reference to rebel activity.

The power cut and uncertainty over whether President Kabila had fled to his tribal base in Lubumbashi, Katanga province, spurred foreign em-

bassies to accelerate their evacuation plans.

The rising tension in Kinshasa yesterday also prompted commercial air carriers to suspend flights to the city. The rebels are believed to be more than 100 miles away, but already there is an air of siege as supplies from the port of Matadi, which fell to the rebels on Thursday, have been cut off.

Mr Kabila, who went to Lubumbashi on Thursday and has not been seen back in the capital, in spite of government assurances that he had returned, yesterday sacked his army chief of staff. In an attempt to shore up his crumbling regime, he appointed his son, Joseph, to the top job.

But diplomats said there were signs that Mr Kabila's remaining ministers were losing faith in his ability to hang on to the capital. "A lot of ministerial cars are driving around empty," said one foreign envoy.

Sylvain Buki, a rebel commander in Goma, said: "It is too late to talk to Kabila. He has to be removed and removed very fast, for the good of the country."

Mr Kabila has pledged to arm 19,000 volunteers in a citizens' militia which yesterday continued to drill and dance outside the Camanyola Stadium. So far, much to the relief of the city's residents, they have not been issued with any weapons.

Instead, young men fashioned toy guns out of bits of wood and ancient car parts and took up "defensive positions" outside the stadium. Such antics appear to be the only military resistance by Mr Kabila's ragtag army, made up of volunteers, child soldiers and former members of Mobutu's military.

The rebels, meanwhile, continued to pour troops into the west of the country, using an air bridge between Goma and Kibona on the Atlantic coast.

Commander Buki said that he estimated that his men would be able to take Kinshasa by the end of the month. But analysts said yesterday that they suspected Mr Kabila might not last that long.



Kabila has not been seen for several days

## Thinkers indulge in dialogue of the deaf

FROM TUKU VARADARAJAN IN BOSTON

NOT since the Athens of Socrates have so many philosophers been present in the same place at the same time.

More than 3,500 philosophers from 107 different countries have been assembled here in the past week for the World Congress of Philosophy, an intellectual jamboree held every five years. The congress, the 20th this century, was the largest recorded gathering of the tribe.

Unlike Ancient Greece, however, philosophy today is thoroughly "Balkanised" and the Boston congress reflected that. So compartmentalised has the academic world become that the various Aristotelians, Marxists, Nietzscheans, Ec-feminists, set-theorists, Logicians, Ethics-walkers, philosophers of biology, neo-Kantians, philosophers of physics, even philosophers of sport, spent little time talking to those who were not of their own ilk. In this fin-de-siècle Babel, the few exchanges that did take place were dialogues of the deaf.

Leading article, page 19

## British bomb team joins FBI in Nairobi

FROM DAVID ORR IN NAIROBI

A BRITISH forensic team will soon join American experts investigating the explosions which killed more than 260 people in East Africa eight days ago. The Britons will strengthen a team of 22 FBI specialists already at work in Kenya and Tanzania.

The FBI currently has more than 200 agents, laboratory examiners, evidence technicians, computer specialists, photographers and translators in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. Agents are conducting some 700 interviews in the Kenyan capital and 200 in the Tanzanian city. Examination of the two bomb sites will take approximately one month.

The FBI special agent in charge of the investigation in Kenya has said that "very critical and important information" on the bombers' identities had been gathered. Among those who have talked to the FBI are two unarmed Kenyan guards from a private security firm who were on duty at the embassy on the morning of the attack.

They say the terrorists drove to the rear of the embassy in a Mitsubishi vehicle with Dubai number plates. Grenades were thrown and gunfire was exchanged with a US marine before the bomb exploded. The two guards survived the massive blast.



Mr Yeltsin tells Novgorod workers yesterday that the rouble is stable

# Yeltsin recalls Duma to decide rouble's future

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin emerged briefly from his summer holiday yesterday to reiterate his determination not to devalue the rouble and to urge the State Duma to break its recess for an emergency session on the latest economic crisis and the Government's planned austerity measures.

Mr Yeltsin, speaking during a three-hour visit to the north-western city of Novgorod, where he flew by helicopter from the lakeland region of Valdai, dismissed speculation about devaluation: "There will be no devaluation — that is firm and definite." He blamed Russia's woes on a new wave of global financial crises and said the Government was ready to resist this wave.

President Clinton was yesterday said to have called Mr Yeltsin, reportedly to discuss the financial crisis.

Mr Yeltsin was unclear meanwhile about when he would be ending his holiday and returning to Moscow. On arrival in Novgorod, he insisted that he would continue his fishing holiday, saying that a premature return would only give the markets the impression that the Government was panicking. Sergei Yast-

zhembsky, the presidential spokesman, said Mr Yeltsin would probably go back to Moscow towards the end of next week. Interfax news agency quoted Mr Yeltsin as saying he had had enough of a rest and would be ending his holiday. "Besides, the fishing is no good, only small fry," it quoted him as saying.

Russian shares plummeted on Thursday amid new fears of a run on the rouble, despite last month's stabilisation package from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.



Shares recovered a little yesterday, but traders said they did not expect the tendency to last long and issued a warning that any more bad news could send the market back into freefall.

Sergei Kiriyenko, the Prime Minister, said he would be discussing the crisis with Mr Yeltsin and reaffirmed his commitment to the Government's austerity measures, which still require approval from the Duma. Opposition factions, including the dominant Communists, have withdrawn their objections to an emergency session, which may take place before the month's end.

In Novgorod, Mr Yeltsin said he was well satisfied by Mr Kiriyenko's performance, but singled out Yakov Urinson, the Economics Minister, for criticism. Mr Yeltsin said: "From the theoretical point of view, he knows and is doing everything, but he knows nothing about practice. As a result, he has fallen behind, and so have we."

He also talked of shortcomings in the Finance Ministry and the State Customs Committee, indicating that senior heads there could roll, too.

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# The Beatles get back to No 1

But the list of our favourite musical acts shows most Britons are born to be mild, writes **Claudia Joseph**

THE Beatles went straight to No 1 yesterday — in a chart of the public's favourite musical acts.

They were followed by Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra in a top 100 which contained a preponderance of easy-listening music, reflecting the public's essentially conservative tastes.

The only controversy in the list lies in those who failed to make it: Chuck Berry, one of the creators of rock'n'roll; the jazz musician Miles Davis; and Louis Armstrong. The Who and Otis Redding, who dominated the 1960s, and the Sex Pistols and the Clash, icons of the punk era, are also missing.

The survey, of 5,000 music fans of all ages and tastes, was conducted by the British Market Research Bureau, which made the best-selling film soundtrack, did not feature on the list, which straddles rock, pop, jazz and opera across five decades.

Mr Snow, editor of *Mojo* magazine, which published the survey, believes it proves

the public plumps for "the pleasing, healing and memorable". He said: "The most encouraging element is that, looking at the top three, people of all ages and social backgrounds are listening to really good music."

"Men also seem to have broader musical tastes than women, with female favourites being more clearly defined."

Mr Snow added: "While many younger voters will have changed their minds since this survey was conducted, many older respondents obviously gave the same answer they would have given 20 years ago."

The survey, of 5,000 music fans of all ages and tastes, was conducted by the British Market Research Bureau, which made the best-selling film soundtrack, did not feature on the list, which straddles rock, pop, jazz and opera across five decades.

With 30 per cent of the population now over the age of 55, golden oldies featured strongly in the poll. Nat King Cole was voted twelfth favourite, while Bing Crosby, Shirley Bassey and Ella Fitzgerald came above such recent chart-toppers as the Spice Girls and the All Saints.

Also popular were Glenn Miller, Mario Lanza, Perry Como, Frankie Vaughan, Vera Lynn, Paul Robeson and Johnny Mathis.

The Sixties favourites included the housewives' favourite Sir Cliff Richard, the Rolling Stones, Tom Jones, Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix. But there were notable absences, including the Who, James Brown, the Doors, the Kinks, the Monkees and the Small Faces.

Elton John, whose *Candle in the Wind 97* topped all singles polls last year, was No 5 on the list. Rod Stewart, Abba, Neil Diamond, Diana Ross, Simon & Garfunkel, the Carpenters, Fleetwood Mac and the Eagles were among other Seventies choices.

Glam rock and punk failed to strike much of a chord. Queen — at No 4 — David

## 100 ALL-TIME FAMILY FAVOURITES

- 1 The Beatles
- 2 Elvis Presley
- 3 Frank Sinatra
- 4 Queen

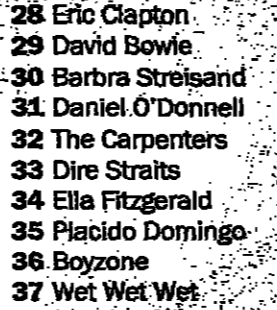


- 5 Elton John
- 6 Celine Dion
- 7 Cliff Richard
- 8 Oasis
- 9 Luciano Pavarotti
- 10 Phil Collins
- 11 George Michael
- 12 Nat King Cole
- 13 Bing Crosby
- 14 Michael Jackson
- 15 Shirley Bassey
- 16 Jim Reeves
- 17 The Rolling Stones
- 18 Simply Red
- 19 Rod Stewart
- 20 Madonna

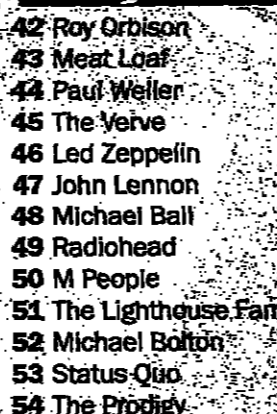


- 21 Abba
- 22 Neil Diamond
- 23 Bob Marley

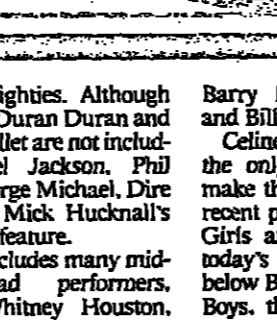
- 24 U2
- 25 Diana Ross
- 26 Bon Jovi
- 27 Pink Floyd
- 28 Eric Clapton
- 29 David Bowie
- 30 Barbra Streisand
- 31 Daniel O'Donnell
- 32 The Carpenters
- 33 Dire Straits
- 34 Ella Fitzgerald
- 35 Placido Domingo
- 36 Boyzone
- 37 Wet Wet Wet
- 38 Tom Jones
- 39 Tina Turner
- 40 Backstreet Boys
- 41 Bob Dylan



- 42 Roy Orbison
- 43 Meat Loaf
- 44 Paul Weller
- 45 The Verve
- 46 Led Zeppelin
- 47 John Lennon
- 48 Michael Ball
- 49 Radiohead
- 50 M People
- 51 The Lighthouse Family
- 52 Michael Bolton
- 53 Status Quo
- 54 The Prodigy
- 55 Prince
- 56 Luther Vandross
- 57 REM



- 58 The Spice Girls
- 59 Fleetwood Mac
- 60 The Three Tenors
- 61 Glenn Miller
- 62 All Saints
- 63 Bryan Adams
- 64 Enya
- 65 Simon & Garfunkel
- 66 Liza Minnelli
- 67 Whitney Houston
- 68 Paul McCartney
- 69 James Last
- 70 UB40
- 71 Matt Munro
- 72 Marie Lariza
- 73 Buddy Holly
- 74 The Eagles
- 75 The Stone Roses
- 76 Barry Manilow



- 77 Vera Lynn
- 78 Frankie Vaughan
- 79 Genesis
- 80 Bernard Scudder



- 81 Perry Como
- 82 Paul Robeson
- 83 Nirvana
- 84 Johnny Mathis
- 85 Robbie Williams
- 86 Chris Rea
- 87 Kiri Te Kanawa
- 88 Stevie Wonder
- 89 Eternal
- 90 The Beautiful South
- 91 Billy Joel
- 92 The Scorpions
- 93 Take That
- 94 Harry Secombe



- 95 Jimi Hendrix
- 96 The Beach Boys
- 97 Alanis Morissette
- 98 Madonna
- 99 Tammy Wynette
- 100 The Police



- 95 Jimi Hendrix
- 96 The Beach Boys
- 97 Alanis Morissette
- 98 Madonna
- 99 Tammy Wynette
- 100 The Police



- 95 Jimi Hendrix
- 96 The Beach Boys
- 97 Alanis Morissette
- 98 Madonna
- 99 Tammy Wynette
- 100 The Police



In for the count: Jane Couch yesterday

## Woman boxer set for first pro fight

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE boxer Jane Couch is planning to fight in Britain's first official professional women's boxing bout next month, after winning her legal battle to be given a licence.

Couch, who received a settlement of £15,000 from the British Boxing Board of Control in March after bringing a sex discrimination case, is negotiating with promoters for a fight with a former world featherweight title against the American Diane Davis in the United States in October 30. She has to fight a foreigner because she is the only woman in Britain to have a boxing licence.

Couch, 30, said yesterday that she expected huge public interest in the bout. "Even old ladies have been coming up to me and saying 'Well done' after my victory at the tribunal."

John Morris, the board's secretary, said that Couch, who calls herself the Fleetwood Assassin, had to fight on a bill put on by one of the 5 licensed promoters, several of whom are women.

Frank Maloney, who manages Lennox Lewis, yesterday called women fighters breaks saying: "I would rather give my licence back than promote them. There will be no women on my shows." Frank Warren, another leading promoter, has also said that he will not stage women's boxing.

### BUT WHAT ABOUT...



Chuck Berry, above, was among those who failed to make the list. Others omitted included: Louis Armstrong, The Bee Gees, Blur, Marc Bolan, James Brown, The Clash, Miles Davis, Otis Redding, The Sex Pistols, The Who

Bowie, Meat Loaf and Status Quo were all included, while the only acts on the list that could remotely be described as punk are Paul Weller and the Police — both of whom changed their image and their music after the safety-pin-strewn 1970s came to an end. A quarter of the list came

from the Eighties. Although the Smiths, Duran Duran and Spandau Ballet are not included, Michael Jackson, Phil Collins, George Michael, Dire Straits and Mick Hucknall's Simply Red feature. The list includes many middle-of-the-road performers, such as Whitney Houston,

Barry Manilow, Chris Rea and Billy Joel. Celine Dion and Oasis were the only Nineties artists to make the top ten. For all the recent popularity of the Spice Girls and the All Saints in today's charts, they came in below Boyzone, the Backstreet Boys, the Verve, Radiohead,

M People, the Lighthouse Family, Michael Bolton and the Prodigy. Robbie Williams, at No 85, beat his old group Take That, at No 93, but there was no sign on the list of Gary Barlow as a solo artist. Bob Marley was the lone reggae act and there was no

sign of any rappers, not even the current chart favourite Puff Daddy. Opera was represented by the Three Tenors — Luciano Pavarotti, Jose Carreras and Placido Domingo — and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa. Metro music, pages 10-15

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# Comedians raise a laugh with Diana death jokes

### Gillian Harris and Dalya Alberge on performers prepared to break the new taboo

COMEDIANS at the Edinburgh Fringe are breaking a new taboo by making jokes about the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

A year after the fatal car accident, several performers are using gags about the Princess's troubled life in their routines. They poke fun at her lifestyle, the circumstances surrounding her death and the overwhelming grief that gripped the nation at the time of her funeral.

Only one of the comedians who use Diana jokes has dropped them from her routine since arriving in Edinburgh. Richard Morton, who wrote a song called *Nobody Cried*

for Dodi, decided he did not feel comfortable singing it on stage. "I wasn't sure about it and, when you are in front of an audience, you feel semi-psychic. I felt it was not the right time. I have heard horror stories about other comedians making jokes about Diana. In one case I heard that a guy was threatened with a beating after the show," he said.

"I make jokes about Louise Woodward and Gary Glitter, which go down well, but there is

still a taboo surrounding Diana. Anyway, Diana died in a tragic accident and you don't make jokes about something like that."

However, Timandra Harkness, from the Comedy Club, who includes Diana jokes in her show, insists that her audiences find it a relief to laugh. "Most of my jokes are about the reaction to her death and the way in which we were expected to be very upset. When I'm telling the jokes I can tell that the audiences feel relieved that

someone is saying it's all right not to grieve.

"Sometimes I hear a low rumble of disapproval as if I've been a naughty girl, but then I say, OK, hands up who actually knew her? Then they laugh."

Chloe Poems, who describes herself as "a queer subversive poet" and promises a "provocative, hilarious celebration of life, sex and gingham deviance", includes in his show an ode about the Princess's death called *Crash! Bang! Wallop!*

What a Picture? He said: "I bring an honesty to the whole situation. The saintliness and canonisation of her is quite abhorrent and has become twisted. I actually admire her work, but she was a flawed woman. She had the cancer of the media on her back."

Mike Gunn, who plays a funeral director in his one-man show, *Good Grief*, makes jokes about the unseemly rush to market the Princess after her death. "I tell a few gags then ask if anyone is

upset. Normally at least one person says they are, then everyone else cheers. I do think people are still sensitive about Diana, but I don't see why they should be. Nobody gives a toss about Mother Teresa jokes."

Phil Nicol, a Canadian comic, admits that he tells Diana jokes for their shock value. "The younger the audience the better the response," he said. "I make jokes about Diana, but the point I am making is about the way the media handled the whole affair. Yes, I do it to shock, but I would soon stop if the jokes were not getting a laugh."

# Not so funny, girls

### Women comedians are in laughably short supply at the Fringe, reports Dalya Alberge

Women don't much tickle men's fancy — anyway, not to make them giggle. There is a dire shortage of female stand-up comics and nobody can fathom why. For some people, women are just not funny on stage. They argue that women cannot be both funny and sexy at the same time and that, in trying to compete with men, too many resort to laddish and predictable jokes about "beer, fags and gynaecology". Others think the fair sex just needs to be given a fair chance to prove itself.

Jenny Eclair — the only woman to have won the Perrier award for comedy, for her 1995 show *Prozac and Tantrums* — expressed despair that, on looking through the Edinburgh Fringe brochure, she did not find any solo shows at the three major venues given over to other women performers. According to one count, solo female acts account for only ten out of 350 shows on the Fringe and for only eight out of 75 comics shortlisted for the Perrier. Jo Brand, French and Saunders and Victoria Wood are among the few who have become household names.

James Herring, of Avalon, a comedy agency, said that, however hard he and a colleague had tried during the past seven years, they had yet to find a female stand-up comic to join Eclair on its books. "Time and time again the standard of women comics is poor. Perhaps it's the obsession with gynaecological matters — which never works unless you're Eclair, who takes it to a level that's so vulgar it's hilarious."

Eclair, 38, said that the reason she became so "loud and fast" was the heckling. "You get heckled if you're shit, not because you're a girl. I hated it so much." She believes that it comes down to psychological differences: "Men start practising being funny early on. It's the way parents treat them. With girls, it's 'Doesn't she look pretty?' Boys take more teasing. Also, men don't communicate or talk to each other. Their way of making friends is to make them laugh. A woman, however, tells her friends serious truths, showing, 'I trust you with secrets.'"

Liz White, a manager with Off The Curb, said that there were many more top-ranking females in



Raising a smile: clockwise from bottom left, Jo Brand, Jenny Eclair and French and Saunders, female comics who have made it; and Veronica McKenzie, still trying

the United States than here as — she thinks — they have a more established tradition of stand-up. She dismissed those who argued that it was a male-dominated industry, claiming that most agents, promoters, television producers and commissioning editors were women.

The problem, she said, was that it was such a tough profession. Getting up on stage was like entering a boxing ring: "It demands a laddish and tough performance."

Nonsense, according to Eclair: "That's soppy, suggesting that girls are still crying in their dresses. It's a myth that girls are frightened of going on stage."

Veronica McKenzie, 28, part of a triple bill at Edinburgh, delivers

laid-back, observational, sarcastic humour. She said: "A lot of men get on stage believing they've got a right to talk. They believe they're funny even if they're not. Women are more realistic, asking themselves, 'Am I hard enough?' and 'Am I funny enough?' Women give up because they are not confident on stage." There was, she said, nothing more soul-destroying than a visible sigh as one walked out onstage, or when people took her entrance as an opportunity to go to the bar.

Melanie Hudson is one half of Hudson and Peppering, an earthy duo whose characters include *The Girls Who Pretend To Like Football*: "Did you see that match? The handball was so obvious." "Yeah, Seaman kept

doing that." She has her own theory: "The best comedy is based on sadness, and men are sadder."

Matt Leys, producer of the Channel 4-sponsored *So You Think You're Funny?* competition at the festival, said that more than a quarter of its entrants this year were women, "the highest proportion ever". He senses, too, that the tide is turning against the laddish approach "in favour of something more cuddly and surreal".

In the final analysis, as one Edinburgh visitor put it, virtually all the stand-up comedians, men and women, get their laughs from people who think it is hilarious to hear swearing at every other word; but when it comes to being funny — unlike Billy Connolly — they draw a blank.

### THE CUTTING EDGE OF FEMALE HUMOUR

Jo Brand: "I've just got back from a holiday in Norway, where whaling hasn't been banned yet — so I couldn't go swimming."

"I quite like looking like this because at least I don't have to drink Martini every time I go to a party."

Victoria Wood: "It's a trying moment when your child asks you for a French pill. You say, are you sure? Don't you want some Ecstasy or something?"

Shelagh Martin: "I did think it would be interesting to have a hedgehog coil because if someone did attack you for wearing it you could just roll yourself up into a ball. Unless of course they were driving a lorry."

"I always feel very disappointed whenever I see a bottle of mineral water that's got 'still mineral water' written on it. There's always the hope that it might have turned into a bottle of vodka."

### Swansong Choral shows what British musical life will miss

HALFWAY through Beethoven's *Choral Symphony* on Thursday, Sir Simon Rattle stopped conducting and just listened, entranced, with the rest of us. That famous mop of curls fell into repose; those inexhaustible arms dropped.

Rattle was standing in Symphony Hall, the magnificent edifice that he persuaded Birmingham's hard-nosed civic leaders to build. He was in front of the orchestra that he has transformed from middling-provincial to world-class. And he had just conjured up an interpretation of the *Choral Symphony* that was simply the most exciting heard for years. Bliss doesn't come more perfect than that.

Or perhaps it does, because there is an underlying sadness about the Beethoven symphony cycle that Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra have so magnificently mounted in Birmingham over the past few days (and will now take to the Salzburg Festival). Just a fortnight remains of Rattle's 18-year musical marriage to the

**CONCERT**  
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**Simon Rattle**  
Birmingham

CBSO. And as the day of divorce grows nearer, so the enormity of the gap he will leave in British musical life becomes ever more apparent.

Which other conductor, for instance, would dare programme Harrison Birtwistle's craggy, dissonant and fiendishly difficult *The Triumph of Time* as a prelude to the *Choral Symphony*? And then, having programmed it, exude the charisma to fill every seat in the house, and to galvanise his orchestra into delivering it with superlative assurance. The answer is: nobody else in the world.

Like the Bruegel canvases that shares its name, *The Triumph of Time* portrays human existence as brutal, mechanistic and pointless. It's not an attractive view, and Birtwistle writes music to match. But in a performance as well shaped as this, the granite orchestral textures and sour fanfares gripped the imagination.

As for the *Choral Symphony*, Rattle (aided by Jonathan Del Mar's convincing new edition of Beethoven's symphonies) offers nothing less than a revelatory rethinking.

From the astonishing liberties he takes with the first movement's pacing, to the pulsating energy of the Adagio, and finally to the glorious rhetoric of the *Ode to Joy* — this was the *Choral Symphony* approached as if it were a new found land.

A superbly responsive choir helped (the CBSO Chorus, singing entirely from memory), as did four fine soloists. The bass Willard White launched the *Ode to Joy* by melodramatically thrusting out his arm, as if halting some transcendent taxi. It could have looked corny and ridiculous. In the context of Rattle's mesmerisingly urgent reading, it seemed entirely apt.

RICHARD MORRISON

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# Liberty, equality, holiday

### Ben Macintyre finds the French are serious about *les grandes vacances*

Tommy Blair, champion of the "fundamental right" to choose one's holiday destination, embarks on the second leg of his own vacation to France, a land which regards the annual summer break not merely as a birthright but almost as a sacred obligation, enshrined in law and tradition.

A few weeks ago the Champs-Élysées was pulsating with humanity celebrating the World Cup, but today the French capital is a ghost town maintained by a skeleton staff, eerily deserted save for the knots of booted and baffled tourists wondering why they cannot find much to buy or eat.

Parisian shops, cafes and restaurants do not merely close in August, they bang down the shutters as loudly as possible. Away from the tourist sites, window displays have been dismantled, white-wash has been daubed on the inside of the glass and a note has been pinned to the door: Back in September.

Holidaymaking in France is a serious business, not to be disturbed by such mundane considerations as economics, politics or diplomacy. Ever since 1936, when the Popular Front Government mandated regular summer holidays for factory employees and Léon Blum cut the working week from 48 hours to 40, the amount of time French people actually spend working has steadily declined, creating, in the process, the massive French tourist industry.

French workers will have even more spare time on their hands after the millennium, when legislation comes into force reducing the working week once again, from 39 hours to 35. Government "overtime inspectors" will be on hand to fine those who secretly try to work longer hours.

Before 1936, holidays were seen in France as a privilege restricted to the upper classes, and the notion of being paid not to work seemed as odd as that of working without pay. "Leisure! Leisure!" chorused one French newspaper when the legislation on holiday pay was finally passed. Some factory workers had no idea what to do with their allocation of summer leave, and immediately repaired to the fields to earn some extra money as temporary harvesters.

Now every Frenchman, from Monsieur Hulot to the President, receives his generous holiday allowance as part of the "acquis social", the network of acquired social rights that define what it is to be French. This week Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former President, pointed out that, for the first time in the history of the Fifth Republic, and in defiance of the rule laid down by General de Gaulle, both the President and Prime Minister were on holiday simultaneously, leaving France leaderless in the face of some potential unnamed "emergency". For his pains Giscard was ridiculed as a killjoy, and it was rudely pointed out that he was one of the few people not on holiday because, these days, the former President does not have much to be on holiday from.

Under law every French worker is entitled to a minimum of 30 days' paid leave a year, plus 12 Bank Hol-

days. There is even a special half-price holiday train ticket allotted by law to each salaried employee.

To some Anglo-Saxon minds, the French stress on stress-free time-off seems excessive. According to one calculation, when France brings in its 35-hour-week and taking into account its earlier retirement policy, the average American will spend the equivalent, in working hours, of at least a dozen more years at work than his French counterpart. Britain, with longer holidays than the United States but longer working hours than France, comes not far behind America in the workaholic league.

The paltry two-week break offered by many American companies would be a cause for revolution in France, while the idea that a Wall Street banker might forego his vacation to prove his dedication and enthusiasm to his bosses strikes the French as most peculiar. In France, anyone who fails to take up every minute of paid holiday is

### Average working lives are a decade shorter in France

either unbalanced, incompetent or conducting a clandestine affair in town.

Americans regard the French taste for extended leisure as evidence of decadence and decline, of a nation sleepwalking to economic disaster; the French see the tendency towards obsessive work and little rest as proof of the essentially uncivilised nature of the Anglo-Saxon animal, a tense creature that does not know how to relax and as a result is hard to talk to and unimpressive in bed.

"We need time to live," Lionel Jospin, the Socialist Prime Minister, declared when making his electoral promise to cut working hours. His argument is simple: if everyone works shorter hours, more jobs will have to be created to pick up the slack, the jobless rate will fall and more people will be able to enjoy paid holidays.

The counter-argument, voiced loudly by many economists and French business leaders, is that such a move will increase labour costs through social charges and overtime, cut productivity, reduce profits and hamper, perhaps even stifle, France's fragile economic recovery. It is wrong, M Jospin's critics insist, to regard work as a fixed quantity to be shared out between workers, for work creates employment.

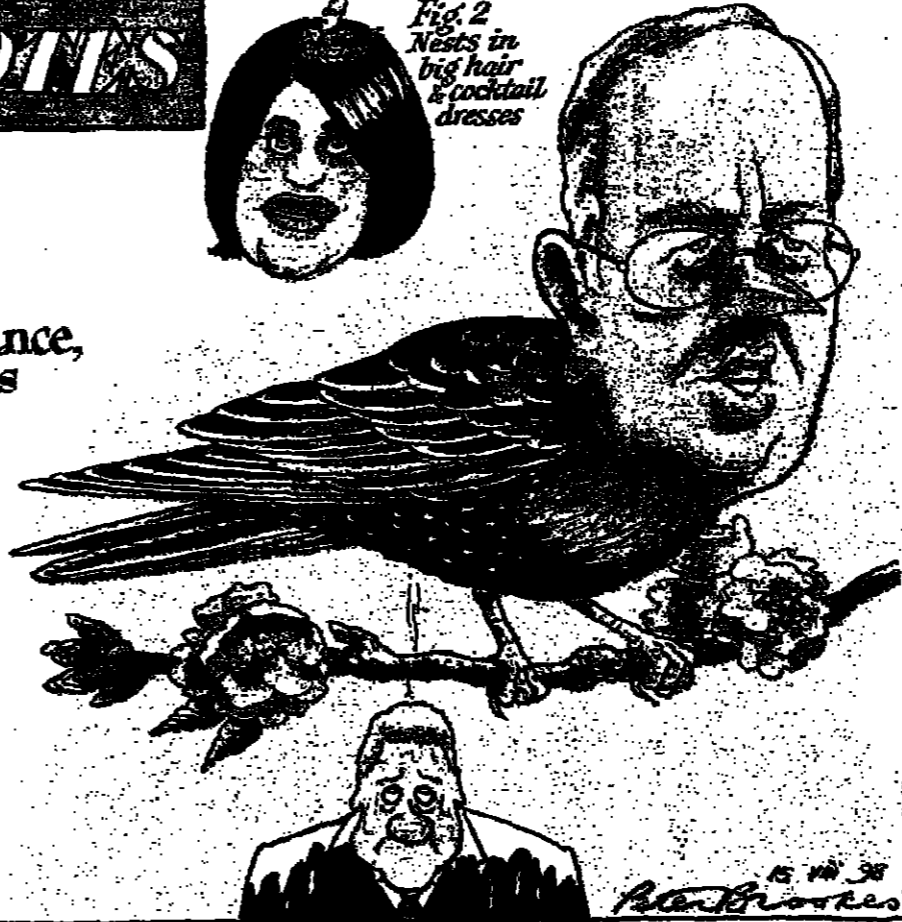
Lionel Jospin is convinced that a nation of thoroughly rested workers will be not only more productive and more fully employed, but happier. Some research suggests otherwise, for people with more time off simply seem to spend the additional hours watching television and conducting domestic disputes. A study by the University of Lüneburg found that after Volksware cut its working week to 29 hours, the divorce rate among workers almost doubled.

"If all the year were playing holidays, to sport would be as tedious as work. But when they seldom come, they wish'd for come." Then again, there is no record that Shakespeare ever spent a day on the beach, and his is doubtless just the pinched observation of another Anglo-Saxon with no idea how to unwind.

## NATURE NOTES

### Starring (Clintonus nemesi)

Inoffensive in appearance, it is in reality a ruthless persecutor and a noisy aggressor. Fouls high office buildings (and high office)



# To split or not to split

### Words are free, but grammar is too important to be left to grammarians who don't see why infinitives matter

A sure sign of the silly season is when the split infinitive comes out of hiding. Last week yet another dictionary was published, the *New Oxford Dictionary of English*. There are now as many dictionaries as there are four-letter words to put in their press releases. The Oxford University Press has brought out its latest in mid-August — a sign of some desperation — and maddened the old fogies by firing the split infinitive on parole. The outcome is a rush to the barricades and much good publicity.

I love such rows. On dictionaries, I am with the libertarians. We can do what we like with words, since they belong to us. Words are things that American researchers teach to vervet monkeys, and John Prescott turns to anarchy. Any lexicographer can creep out of the jungle and scream *downshift, car bra, and phwoak*. The new dictionary's editor, Judy Pearsall, is welcome to use *they* for *he or she*, as we all have for years. Words are for living and changing. They are part of the kaleidoscope of communication.

Would that the same were true of spelling. We never get a dictionary with the guts to apply to spelling the same gusto it applies to new words. Editors love grabbing headlines with street-wise words, but *turn aghast* from street-wise spelling. They play fast and loose with English, but have no courage to follow George Bernard Shaw to spelling reform. (The British Library can even steal the money he left for the cause.) I may yearn to use *thru*, *niff*, and *reeve*. But Oxford's spellers will not lift a finger to help me.

Instead the lexicographers meddle with grammar, a job that is beyond their station. Grammar is serious. The capacity to use it is what separates us from apes. It defines our species and enables us to do more than grunt, wail and mate. Grammar, said the American writer Eudora Welty, is the constitutional foundation of English, which she likened to "the State Capitol... its marble floor echoing under foot and the bell of its rotunda overhead." We recognise, judge and react to each other through the subtleties of grammar. Its rules hold the key to human diplomacy and should never be changed without the utmost care.

An example of this is the havoc

field's British Airways stewardess, wrestling with corporate-speak: "We ask you to please stay in your seats." The same goes for, "He ran to just stop the car going over the cliff." You can rebuild this sentence but not relocate the *just* without distorting meaning. But the absolute ban on splitting the infinitive dates only from a grammar published in 1864. It swiftly became a matter of linguistic snobbery, not common sense.

The reason for avoiding a split has nothing to do with snobbery or Latin. It is that the rhythm and order of a sentence is the chief aid to its meaning. Split infinitives tend to jar the ear and jerk a sentence out of shape. The phrase, *to emphatically and conclusively be* is ugly. The engine of the verb is torn apart by its qualifiers. The most famous split of all is Byron's, "To slowly trace the forest's shady scene". He overcame ugliness only by the purity of his metre and the balancing strength of *slowly* and *trace*. Had he written "to slowly go" he would have killed the line.

This is why *Star Trek's* much-cited "to boldly go", admired by the *NODE*, is wretched. The adverb rushes to rescue Dr Spock from his choice of one of the weakest verbs in the language. *Go* ranks with *is* and *has*, words used only to rush the listener on somewhere else. For boldly go, the Royal Marines use "dare", a stronger verb with the same meaning. Or they venture, risk and hazard all. Real *Star Trekkers* would never "go".

The split infinitive debate is always welcome. It emphasises what is vital to language, the rhythm and power that grammar bestows on the passing parade of words. Infinitives are verbs, described by Humphrey Dumpty as "the proudest of words". To those who want their sentences to flow, all qualifiers are an incubus, so much luggage. They impede meaning by altering and weakening ill-chosen nouns and verbs.

If a verb needs an adverb, goes the maxim, it is the wrong verb. If it needs the extra crutch of the adverb located within its infinitive, the poor thing must be on its knees and begging for help. A split infinitive is a boy sent on a man's errand. Avoid it. The case for change is not proven.

Daily the researchers apply Occam's Razor. "Frustra fit per plura," they cry, "quod potest fieri per pauciora" (or Keep It Simple Stupid). As yet the English-speaking world is not ready for *know is love* or *God gave us sea*. But great excitement has enveloped work in the dated department.

Students are deep into pidgins and Creoles. A pidgin speaker knows what he means when he says, *Look you go see your mother*. His verbs have no need of prepositions. Estuary English is also proving fruitful territory. It mutates the *to* into a final *-a* on the preceding verb, as in, *ya wanna be or dya wanna come*. This is no vulgarity, but a reversion to an Old English form which used the suffix *-a* to form the infinitive. And why not?

These fine scholars are the space scientists of language. They are lost in its black holes and quasars. When they tell us to shift course, we can shift. Until then, the Earth is still round, time does not bend and splitting infinitives is not normal or useful. It is ugly and sloppy, to be done only in emergencies.

Grammarians from Fowler to Robert Burchfield have listed cases where splits make sense. They are usually where a speaker needs to hurl qualification at a weak verb. We can sympathise with Burch-

field's British Airways stewardess, wrestling with corporate-speak: "We ask you to please stay in your seats." The same goes for, "He ran to just stop the car going over the cliff." You can rebuild this sentence but not relocate the *just* without distorting meaning. But the absolute ban on splitting the infinitive dates only from a grammar published in 1864. It swiftly became a matter of linguistic snobbery, not common sense.

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Simon Jenkins

# A coach put out to grass

### Simon Barnes on the hypocrisy of Glenn Hoddle

Bless me, Hoddle, for I have sinned. As coach of the England football team, Glenn Hoddle has many sacerdotal functions. These include hearing the confessions of his players; or at least being privy to their torments and troubles — sport being, after all, a tormenting and troubling business.

Hoddle has broken the seal of the confessional. What he reveals is not terribly shocking, what is shocking is that he reveals anything at all. The serial rights of his World Cup diary were sold to our turbulent sister paper, *The Sun*, and include revelations that Gazza (remember him?) was drunk when Hoddle told him that he was dropped from the England squad, and that he kicked a chair with a bare foot and smashed a glass lamp.

The revelations were no doubt worth the 250,000 pieces of silver that Hoddle was, it is estimated, paid as an advance. But let us ring up the Football Association's PR man to complain. Hang on: the association's PR man, David Davies, was the book's ghostwriter.

An England football coach has two options. He either works miracles or gets the sack. Hoddle has worked miracles all right, though not, alas, the miracle of World Cup victory. The miracle was that after a very disappointing World Cup campaign, he was not sacked — or even blamed. Instead, everyone blamed David Beckham, who was sent off for petulance in England's last game. Beckham, in short, saved Hoddle from disaster. It was nothing short of a miracle. Hoddle should have been forever grateful.

But no, Beckham is just one more player who gets a dose of public criticism. Beckham has already become, since the World Cup, an object of nationwide loathing. Hoddle, as a good coach should, piles on more blame.

But really, you know, with the publication of this book, it is as if Hoddle were going out of his way to restore Beckham in the nation's affections. Don't hate Beckham — hate me instead! I really am much more despicable. Beckham was a silly little crime of passion: Hoddle's is a thoughtful, premeditated scam, rewarded with untold gold.

Hoddle has done well. In the space of a week, he has taken himself from a man who has miraculously kept his national respect intact, to nothing less than a national hate figure. But he has even managed a still greater miracle: he has made us all feel sorry for Gazza.

Gazza had, it seemed, run out of forgiveness. There had been one binge, one tabloid revelation too many. But here comes Hoddle talking tales out of school, and suddenly there is a wave of renewed sympathy — even affection — for poor, crazy Gazza.

Gazza is awful but he didn't deserve this: to have his secrets told in print self-righteous footballers by a stand-up-and-be-counted Christian who has just dumped his wife and three children (youngest five). Hoddle has sold the secrets of men in his care for vast sums — and fancies himself a saint for doing so.

But a coach, like a priest, must have the trust of his flock. If you break confidences, you have neither trust nor flock. It is not simply immoral to keep Hoddle in the job. It is impractical.

Hoddle under fire, page 29  
Danny Baker, page 31

# Swift's work

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL note penned by Jonathan Swift has been unearthed by Victoria Glendinning. The author of *Gulliver's Travels* was thought not to have left any jottings about himself when he died in 1745. But John Forster mentioned in his 1895 biography of Swift that an autobiographical fragment had existed but was thought to have been lost. Not so, according to Glendinning (pictured). The biographer, whose previous subjects have included Anthony Trollope and Edith Sitwell, says she has found the *aide-memoire* and has pored over it during her research for her book on Swift, to be published this month.

Coquettishly, she declines to say where the fragment turned up and who had it. But her detective work is expected to shed light on the intriguing career of the writer. He worked as a government propagandist for Queen Anne, making friends with Establishment figures, before turning into the ferocious, if somewhat chippy, satirist.

Details about his personal life, particularly his relationship with Esther Johnson, whom he affectionately called Stella, will be particularly eagerly awaited. Professor



Malcolm Bradbury told me: "Swift has had continuing importance. *Gulliver's Travels* has inspired a tradition that comes right through to *Animal Farm*. In all his political writings you get this anti-Establishment rage, because he never got the preferment he hoped for."



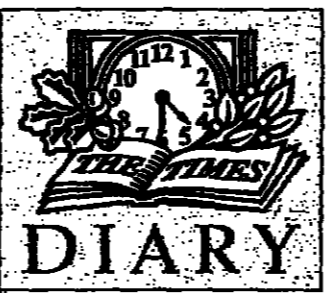
● KENNETH STARR is not the only person showing a forensic interest in Vox, the novel about telephone sex which Monica Levinsky sent President Clinton. Granta, its British publisher, has received an inquiry about serialisation rights from the Sunday Sport.

## Bar ties

THE Archbishop of Canterbury need not feel too despondent about the Lambeth Conference. Despite the three-week event virtually turning into a religious war, it did at least produce one swift conversion. Kandy Lewis and Peter Millen run a pub on the outskirts of the University of Kent where the 750 bishops were staying. Their tavern became a regular drop-in for a trio of conservative bishops from Orlando, Jacksonville and Dallas, who became horrified to discover that the couple were living in sin.

So keen were the three for the publicans to learn the joys of marriage that the clerics offered to sanctify the relationship there and then. The couple were happy to oblige but soon discovered that the ceremony would not be permitted in a pub. Underdressed, they have sworn to save up and fly to America for one of their new friends to help them to tie the knot. "Marriage is fundamental to their Christianity, but by English law you have to give 28 days' notice," observes Kandy. "Florida sounds very nice, though."

● SOMEONE is snooping on Lord Avebury. The Lib Dem peer, who has been monitoring human rights



EDWARD WELSH

abuses against Kurds, has upset the Turks. Avebury discovered that he had been spied on by spooks from Ankara after they passed his telephone numbers to a Turkish intelligence service thinks it will find Reds under his bed. "He is over there at the moment. This sort of thing goes with the territory."



Lady A told me, and, chances are, some nosy Anatolians.

## Murder plot

JILLY COOPER is at the centre of a murder inquiry. The bomb-buster author (pictured left) has called in the police to her Cotswold home for questioning as research for her latest novel. She is dreaming up a grisly death for Rannaldin, an Italian orchestra conductor in the book, and wants to ensure that the plot would stand up in court. "The police have been very helpful over questions about procedure," says Jilly. I always thought her novels were well-researched.

● AS 300 members of the Garrick Club yesterday trooped into the Fortune Theatre to discuss Disney's loot, they were greeted by notices about its show, a thriller "Spooky", "Spine tingling" and "Take tranquillisers". A wild gypsy woman also shouted at them: "Are you on strike for more money?"

## Grant aid

BERNIE GRANT'S ambitions have suffered a setback. I gather the forthright Tottenham MP lobbied Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to appoint him Minister for Ethnic Minorities in last month's reshuffle. The man who said the Met should be given a "good hiding" after the Broadwater Farm riots wanted "special responsibility for police liaison". It's lucky Jack has a good sense of humour.



GEORGE BEST is turning into a one-man cottage industry. The former Manchester United ballsmith has staggered upon yet another wheeze to make money from a most unlikely source. Already selling plonk from Italy bottled as a George Best vintage, he has now arranged a sinecure from the National Portrait Gallery.

"I've had a letter from the gallery, outlining a plan to sell framed and signed copies of my portrait," he says, gleefully. "Both the photographer, Sethon Samuels, and I will get a cut."

A portrait of Best, a different sort of dribbler these days, has hung in the gallery for more than 20 years. Recently, however, our national pantheon began producing this postcard of the footballer's mug — which I picked up for a few bob yesterday — to be sold alongside those of the Queen, Virginia Woolf and Shakespeare. The National Portrait Gallery agreed to the payment after Best complained that he was not receiving a penny.

Despite this accolade, the knick-knack seller in the gallery shop tells me that the Best postcards still have a long way to go before they achieve the popularity of W.G. Grace and Viv Richards. "He certainly isn't one of our top sellers." Where did it all go right, George?





## MOMENT OF TRUTH?

Limited sexual contact means limited Clinton credibility

The White House has spent much of the past fortnight debating the meaning of truth. This has, though, been less an exercise in high principle than in low politics. The President has said nothing in public about the Lewinsky affair for seven months. When Mr Clinton offers his testimony to Kenneth Starr's grand jury on Monday, he has the opportunity to outline the whole truth about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

All the indications are that he will not be so forthcoming. It seems likely that he will acknowledge "limited sexual contact" with Miss Lewinsky. He will thus confirm what a solid majority of Americans have suspected for some time. However, the White House lawyers remain determined to avoid a full admission and apology. With the assistance of a dictionary, a thesaurus and breath-taking audacity, Mr Clinton seems set to distinguish between "sexual contact" and "sexual relations". This will enable him to continue denying allegations of perjury and obstruction of justice. Mr Clinton will dare Mr Starr to prove the case against him.

This strategy may be legally sound but it will limit the President's credibility. Mr Clinton will operate under a dense ethical cloud for at least two months until Mr Starr completes his inquiries. He might be so handicapped for the next two years. He may become less effective in Washington, and thus on the world stage. Some of Mr Clinton's supporters dismiss such concerns. All American Presidents entering their final period in power, they argue, are to some extent lame ducks. Furthermore, they contend, the economic boom and budget surplus that have accompanied the Clinton years, not scandal, will secure his place in history.

This is dangerous territory for the President to be contemplating. The United States has had its fair share of lame ducks in

the Oval Office — it can do without one that cannot even walk. The world cannot run on autopilot while Mr Clinton quietly counts down the days until Mr Starr submits his report. In the next few weeks, Congress will decide whether or not to supply the International Monetary Fund with \$18 billion essential for international economic recovery, to repay or not a sizeable slice of US debt to the United Nations, and whether or not to award "fast-track" trade negotiating status to the President.

Without persuasive presidential leadership all these initiatives are likely to fail. Mr Clinton cannot provide that dynamism if he remains the prisoner of Pennsylvania Avenue — held in contempt by a majority in Congress and damned as dishonest by the US media. He will be incapable of communicating his message to those who matter. Neither will he be able to display real authority when he visits Russia next month, a trip that has become much more important in the past few days. There will be scant pressure on Iraq to co-operate with UN weapons inspectors, on Japan to move swiftly to revive its economy, or on the two sides in the Middle East peace process to compromise.

The Clinton legacy is not yet set in stone. He has two more, potentially very turbulent, years of his term to see through. The domestic achievements of which the President is rightly proud will be undermined if the Asian economic crisis is not contained and then reversed. A budget surplus at home will be of modest value if he leaves Washington with the world a less stable and secure place than when he first took the oath of office. Mr Clinton will certainly take a political risk if he decides to tell all about the Lewinsky saga. He will take a much larger risk with his countrymen and America's allies if he decides to deal in semantics instead.

## MAD DOGS AND BUREAUCRATS

Classroom discipline is eroded by over-regulation

The sun has a strange effect on some people. The recent heatwave appears to have exacerbated bureaucracy's tendency to meddle. In the middle of the school summer holidays, the Local Government Association has warned education authorities that teachers should not help pupils to apply sun cream, for fear of being accused of sexual abuse. This latest piece of nannyism, which has union support, is a sad reflection of a climate of fear. If teachers dare not even dab sun cream on a child's nose, how can they be expected to uphold school discipline?

The idea that teachers act *in loco parentis* has been destroyed. Thirty years ago, parents expected schools to instil the sense of order and respect that their children found at home. A clip around the ear, a rap over the knuckles with a ruler, detention — these were considered legitimate means of enforcing discipline. Teachers would echo the home environment by rewarding pupils with a pat on the head, reassuring young children with a cuddle and tending to their needs as any parent would. Mr Chips might have gone, but his spirit lived on.

Since then this concept has been buffeted from all sides. Classroom discipline has been eroded by so-called "progressive" theories that children need freedom to express their views and thoughts, should not be taught as a whole class and certainly never be struck by teachers. "Positive evaluation" displaced the notion of right and wrong. Cases of child abuse resulted in over-zealous restrictions on the physical contact teachers can have with children. Schools ceased to reflect such structured routines of family life as regular meals or reading to children.

These trends have reduced some of Britain's classrooms to anarchy, with teach-

ers unable or unwilling to exercise authority. The number of teachers beaten up by their pupils has soared: one teaching union estimates that its members won £750,000 in compensation in one year alone. The last resort — expulsion — is fast becoming the most effective means of dealing with consistently wayward pupils. Teachers' paranoia about the consequences of physical contact has been heightened by a spate of accusations of child abuse: last year 117 allegations were made against teachers in one union, of which 91 have so far proved unfounded.

The Government's attempts to reverse the idiocies of past legislation have been half-hearted. Guidance issued last month shows just how tight the State's apron-strings are tied. While belatedly dispelling the myth that any physical contact with a child is unlawful, it tells teachers that they should restrict themselves to using "reasonable force" — for which there is no legal definition. Slapping a child, or pulling two fighting children apart by their ears, is outlawed. A depressing endnote tells teachers that while touching "may be appropriate" in some cases, "well-intentioned physical contact can sometimes be misconstrued".

If the Government wants schools to be places of order and security, it must trust teachers more and nanny them less. Teachers are well able to use their common sense; and if they are to instil discipline, they should be able to punish as well as reward their pupils — a concept that has been expelled from too many schools. The pendulum of public opinion, which swung in favour of banning corporal punishment and tight regulations to prevent child abuse, is now swinging back. The "suncream directive" will accelerate its momentum.

## THINK ON

Philosophy is a quintessentially modern discipline

For Immanuel Kant, the Enlightenment could be captured in two small words: *sapere aude* — "dare to think". When 3,500 individuals professionally devoted to this proposition are gathered under one roof, as happened at the 20th World Congress of Philosophy in Boston this week, the effect may be more of Babel than of 18th-century discourse. Modern philosophy speaks a bewildering variety of languages, from analytic logic to existentialism, poststructuralism, semiotics and the wilder shores of ecocriticism, and there is a fair degree of apartheid between its practitioners.

Hence the temptation to view the discipline as too rarefied and "academic" for mere mortals. Britons are notoriously wary of theory; the national prejudice is well captured by Kipling's "If you can think and not make thoughts your master...". Isaiah Berlin captured British hearts with his tongue-in-cheek remark that he had turned to political thought because "philosophy can only be done by very clever people". This is one of the few European countries where almost no school teaches philosophy. Yet in this age of uncertainty, when today's vocational training may be tomorrow's passport to redundancy, "dare to think" should be the motto pinned on the wall of every undergraduate room and recruitment agency. Philosophy is making a modest comeback in British universities, and not before time.

The great virtue of philosophy is that it teaches not what to think, but how to think. It is the study of meaning, of the principles underlying conduct, thought and know-

ledge. The skills it hones are the ability to analyse, to question orthodoxies and to express things clearly. However arcane some philosophical texts may be — and not everybody can come to grips with the demands of Aristotelian logic — the ability to formulate questions and follow arguments is the essence of education.

It can also be studied at many levels. In the US, where the number of philosophy graduates has increased by 5 per cent a year during the 1990s, only a very few go on to become philosophers. Their employability, at 98.9 per cent, is impressive by any standard. Philosophy has always been a good training for the law; but it is equally useful for computer scientists. In this country, the Higher Education Statistics Survey puts philosophy of science right up with medicine in its employment record for graduates.

Philosophy is, in commercial jargon, the ultimate "transferable work skill". That is not the only argument for expanding philosophy departments, and encouraging sixth-formers to read Plato, or John Stuart Mill on liberty. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, has cautioned against an obsession with the narrowly vocational. Lecturing the Confederation of British Industry on the "utility of philosophy", he defends a liberal education as needing "no justification beyond the satisfaction and enjoyment that it brings". Teenagers waiting for their A level results and pondering degree courses should consider philosophy. It is rewarding in itself; and it could nowadays be the passport to a successful, varied career.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Brown's fiscal strategy and approach to 'fat cat' salaries

From the Shadow Chancellor

Sir, Janet Bush and Jill Sherman write today that "the latest report on inflation prospects from the Bank of England... offered a ringing endorsement of the Chancellor's claim that his plans for increased public spending are prudent". If this is their interpretation of the two documents published by the Bank yesterday, I simply cannot agree.

Both documents quite clearly criticise Labour's spending plans. According to the minutes of the July meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee "the case for a reduction in interest rates had become less clear in the light of the Government's announcements on fiscal strategy which raised new concerns about the medium-term outlook". And the Bank's August inflation report argues that one of the four reasons for the worsening picture on inflation is the increase in state spending: "Higher government spending provides a stimulus to domestic demand, above that assumed in May, towards the end of the forecast horizon."

It is quite clear that Gordon Brown's profligate spending will add to inflationary pressure and ensure that interest rates remain higher for longer than they need have been — as the Bank of England clearly explains.

Yours etc,  
FRANCIS MAUDE,  
House of Commons,  
August 13.

From Mr Roger Fox

Sir, The "academic economists" on the Monetary Policy Committee at the Bank of England have come under considerable criticism from those such as Ruth Lea, of the Institute of Directors (letter, August 12), because of their alleged lack of "real-world experience" — whatever that is supposed to be.

The critics rarely refer to the MPC's brief of keeping the rate of inflation down. Whether they will be successful in that task only time will tell. However, it is rather cheap to single out a

group of distinguished economists for gratuitous remarks just because they are charged with advising on policy and will, sometimes, have to take tough decisions.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer took a sensible economic decision when he created the MPC, based on good evidence from other countries, that giving the central bank responsibility for interest rates should get our inflation rate down to a lower level through time. I would have thought that everyone would welcome such an outcome.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER FOX  
(Senior Academic),  
School of Social Sciences,  
The University of Greenwich,  
Avery Hill Road, Elham, SE9 2UG,  
August 12.

From Mr Granville Davies

Sir, Your leader today, "A policy for pay" surely strikes a naive note in regard to directors' rewards in private industry.

Directors' emoluments are often unrelated to success in their industry, and your confidence that the market will penalise a company whose largesse towards its directors is misplaced is a fond hope.

Those who could conceivably control remuneration policies are the institutional investors, but they have a common interest in promoting high salaries for their present and future fellow directors. Individual small shareholders, who are usually numerically in the majority, have little clout because in total they hold fewer shares.

Your comparison of a company director cashing in his share options with a gambler winning millions on the lottery is invalid because in the former case it is a one-way bet, and in the latter rather less likely to happen.

There is at the moment no effective restraint for the *shouts in the trough*, which is why the Government must exercise some form of control. In schools and hospitals productivity is impossible to measure fairly and

probably totally irrelevant; the first step surely is to curb the often obscene excesses of the private sector.

It is to be regretted that MPs have in the past notably failed to set an example.

Yours truly,  
GRANVILLE DAVIES,  
5 Warren Wood, Warren Road,  
Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1TT,  
August 10.

From Mr David Lindsay

Sir, So, it is open season, again, for shooting "fat cats" — excluding, presumably, the Arsenal deputy chairman, with a pay rise of 228 per cent to £525,000 (report, Business, August 13).

Pay levels cannot, and should not, be government-controlled. They are best left to the market and shareholders. What should be looked at, however, is not so much tax rates, as the absurd upper earnings limit (UEL) on national insurance contributions, which starves the NI fund of its ability to pay fair pensions.

It was, after all, partly the efforts of pensioners when at work that has enabled these high earnings. In particular, abolition of the UEL would allow men, too, to draw state pension from 60, which is surely what their contributions have earned?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID LINDSAY,  
36 Orchard Coombe,  
Whitchurch Hill, Reading RG8 7QL,  
August 13.

From Mr Norman Hampel

MA (Oxon)

Sir, The assertion in your leader today that "The market will penalise a company whose largesse towards its directors is misplaced" is surely one of the great myths of our time.

In the words of the late J. P. W. Mallalieu, when faced with some plausible-sounding but dubious generalisation: "Name me five."

Yours sincerely,  
NORMAN HAMPSEL,  
6 Franconia Road, SW4 9ND,  
August 12.

### Mixed-up monarchs

From Professor A. G. Cross

Sir, While it was good to see such a positive review of Professor Lindsey Hughes's *Russia in the age of Peter the Great* (Books, August 13), readers would be perplexed by the accompanying illustration captioned "Not above doing his own research: Peter the Great mucks in at the dockyards of Deptford; painting by Daniel Maclise", but showing an elegant, slim and rather withdrawn figure looking down at a dwarf.

Those conversant with Petrine iconography will of course recognise King William III and regret that the left-hand side of Maclise's huge canvas was not shown, where Peter, saw in hand and proportioned like a shot-putter, is indeed mucking about with boats.

Yours sincerely,  
ANTHONY CROSS,  
Department of Slavonic Studies,  
University of Cambridge,  
Sidgwick Avenue,  
Cambridge CB3 9DA,  
August 13.

### RN plaques

From Captain Anthony Swainson, RN

Sir, I had no idea that Gieves and Hawkes supplied the Royal Navy with ships' plaques (report, August 6; letters August 8 and 11). These plaques are, in origin, "boat's badges" and were affixed to the bows of small boats. They were also used as tampoons (gun-muzzle covers).

In my day (1950s) all these ships' coats of arms were knocked up on board by the shipwright at small cost to the taxpayer. Such gifts were warmly received by foreign dignitaries. I should imagine that the modern version at £50 must be a poor substitute for the hand-crafted plaque made on board.

I am sure the practice of shipwrights making the plaques must still go on in many ships today.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY SWAINSON,  
48 Springfield,  
Tonbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3NZ,  
August 13.

From the Reverend Roger S. Bennett

Sir, As a former Royal Naval chaplain (1969-90), I spent a number of happy hours working in the chippy's workshop at sea helping both to make and

### Job prospects

From Mr G. Davidson

Sir, Servants in Nigeria in the 1960s were certainly expected to produce a personal reference for any prospective employer (letters, July 31; August 5 and 11). It was not uncommon to be presented with a *takarda* (Hausa for "paper") in which words or phrases considered by the applicant or a more literate friend to be detrimental to any job prospects were obliterated, erased, or even simply cut out.

When writing a *takarda* for our own servants, therefore, we tried to use idiomatic expressions which would convey the required message to any future employer without incur-

### The tradition of Oxbridge MAS

From Mr Henry Button, MA (Cantab)

Sir, According to your report on the Oxbridge Masters (August 8; see also letters, August 12), Oxford and Cambridge graduates have the right to an MA "simply by surviving 21 terms after collecting a bachelor's degree". It was not quite like this in my youth.

My *Student's Handbook to Cambridge 1935-36* explains that a BA may be admitted MA "not less than six years from the end of his first term of residence". Further, "where a student's name has been retained on the boards of his College" the college will let him know when he is of standing to proceed. (If his name had been removed from the boards, it would be for the student to make the first move.) There was a college fee, usually £2, and a university fee of £3 or £6, depending on the date of matriculation.

My college still has four of these boards, which are more than five feet long and about 13 inches wide. Two of them are still covered with names. They seem to have been in use until about 1900, when other arrangements were made.

Yours faithfully,  
HENRY BUTTON  
(Archivist, 1986-96),  
Christ's College,  
Cambridge CB2 3BU,  
August 14.

From Mr Benjamin Buchan

Sir, Years ago, as my family grew up, I promised myself that if I was lucky enough to have a son or daughter attend my old Oxford college, I would take my MA when he or she took the BA.

Last autumn my youngest son and I took our degrees together. It was a memorable ceremony at the Sheldonian for family and friends, followed by lunch in college.

I agree with the sentiment of your leading article (August 8). Why should anyone from Essex University, wherever that may be, call for the abolition of the Oxbridge MA and deprive Oxbridge of their traditions?

Yours sincerely,  
NORMAN HAMPSEL,  
Two Oaks,  
Stade Oak Lane, Denham,  
Buckinghamshire UB9 5DP,  
August 13.

From Mr N. Russell Gilbert, MA (Cantab)

Sir, I have always thought that degrees are rather like dentures: you would not want to be without them, but you ought not to go flashing them about.

Sincerely,  
N. RUSSELL GILBERT,  
22 Cause End Road,  
Wootton, Bedford MK43 9DB,  
August 12.

### Bishops and sexuality

From the Reverend S. J. Davies

Sir, Your report (August 10) that "some bishops took a strongly conservative line and endorsed biblical standpoint..."

At the consecration of Anglican bishops, when the Archbishop has read the preface to the Declaration of Assent, each bishop-elect says: "I affirm, and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the holy Scriptures and set forth in the Catholic Creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness."

Ought we not to expect our bishops, as men of honesty and integrity, to "endorse biblical standpoints"? "Some" seems to imply a minority.

Yours obediently,  
S. J. DAVIES,  
The Devon and Exeter Institution,  
7 The Close, Exeter EX1 1EZ,  
August 11.

### Chief Rabbisates

From Mr Raymond P. Kalman

Sir, Rabbi Dr Romain's insistence that only this country and Israel have a national Chief Rabbi (letter, August 10) will come as a surprise to the holders of that office in Denmark, Ireland, France, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, South Africa and Turkey.

It will be equally surprising to the applicants for the Chief Rabbinate of Romania and Sweden, which are presently vacant as far as I am aware.

Yours faithfully,  
RAYMOND KALMAN,  
21 Florence Mansions,  
Vivian Avenue, NW4 3UY,  
August 11.

### A snip

From Dr T. K. Maurice

Sir, I really think Gordon Brown ought to shop around a bit before he goes on spending £135 each time he has a haircut (report, August 10). Has he tried Cambridge? When I was there as an undergraduate, admitted rather a long time ago, one establishment had a notice in the window reading: "Haircut 8d and no tips."

Yours faithfully,  
TIM MAURICE,  
Grasmere, Back Lane,  
Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1JJ,  
August 11.

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A coat put on to gra...  
Simon Bar...  
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Weekend Money letters, page 53  
Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5946.  
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk



SOCIAL NEWS

The Princess Royal celebrates her 48th birthday today.

Birthdays

TODAY: Lord Burnham, 67; Sir Charles Carter, FBA, former Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University, 79; Mr David Coleman, former President, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 59; Mr Edmund Dell, former MP, 77; Mr James Flecker, former Headmaster, Ardingly College, 59; Dame Wendy Hiller, actress, 86; Miss Rita Hunter, soprano, 65; Lord Ingrow, 81; Mr Jack Lynch, former Prime Minister, Republic of Ireland, 81; Mr Edward McMillan-Scott, MEP, 49; Sir Patrick Nairne, former Master, St Catherine's College, Oxford, 77; Sir Kenneth Newman, former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, 72; Major-General Kenneth Perkins, 72; Mr Oscar Peterson, jazz pianist, 73; Mr Justice Popplewell, 71; Professor Sir Leon Radzwinowicz, FBA, criminologist, 92; Lady Jean Rankin, former Woman of the Bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, 93; Professor Sir Michael Rutter, FRS, Professor of Child Psychiatry, London University, 65; Air Vice-Marshal Sir John Severe, former Captain of The Queen's Flight, 73; Lord Steyn, 66; Sir Stephen Tamm, former Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales, 68; the Hon William Waldegrave, former MP, 53; Sir Kenneth Warren, aeronautical engineer, 72; Air Marshal Sir William Wratten, 59.

TOMORROW: Mr Bruce Beresford, film director, 58; Judge Barrington Black, 66; the Right Rev Ronald Bowley, 72; the Most Rev Sean Brady, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, 59; Miss Ann Chant, former chief executive, Child Support Agency, 53; Sir Philip Dowson, President, Royal Academy, 74; Mr George Galloway, MP, 44; Lord Gillmore of Thamesfield, 64; Miss Katharine Hamnett, fashion designer, 51; Mr Trevor McDonald, broadcaster, 59; Madonna, singer, 40; Sir Donald Maitland, former civil servant and diplomat, 76; Mr Tom Maschler, publisher, Jonathan Cape, 65; Mr John Standing, actor, 64; Miss Helen Storey, fashion designer, 39; Professor W. St C. Symmers, pathologist, 81; Mr Jeff Thomson, cricketer, 48; Mr Arthur Walsh, former chairman, Northern Telecom Europe, 72; Sir Jack Wellings, former chairman, The 600 Group, 81; Professor Brian Woldege, FBA, Emeritus Professor of French, London University, 94.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.G. Allen and Miss K. Boston. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Michael J. Allen, of Mendham, Suffolk, and Kate, third daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Boston, of Knutsford, Cheshire.

Dr C. Armitage and Miss M. Arden. The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs Eric Armitage, of Batley, Yorkshire, and Madeleine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Arden, of Pritwell, Essex.

Mr S.D. Galea and Miss S.J. McWaters. The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of Dr and Mrs J. Galea, of Maidstone, Kent and Kappara, Malta, and Sarah, elder daughter of the late Mr A.M. McWaters and Mrs J. Townsend, of Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

Mr S.J. Nottage and Miss C. Rayer. The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Stuart Nottage, of Ewhurst, Surrey, and Clara, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Rayer, of York.

Mr J.R. Roberts and Miss K.J. Bryan. The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs R. Roberts, of Wareside, by Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, and Kirstin, elder daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs K.R. Bryan, of Andover, Hampshire.

Mr G.H. Young and Miss M.J. Tophill. The engagement is announced between Gerry, eldest son of Sir George and Lady Young, of Penton Mewsey, Hampshire, and Marianne, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Peter Tophill, of Church Stratton, Shropshire.

Appointments in the Forces

The Army BRIGADIER: J.R. Brown - Comdt DMSTC - 21.8.98. R.L. Talbot - Service Attache, Riyadh, 23.8.98. LEUTENANT-COLONEL: G.T. Baldwin, ODG - SHAPE - 4.1.99. C. Brundie, RA - BMM Kuwait - 20.1.99. C.H.D. Darell, KRH - HQ Land - 30.11.98. N.R. Drayton, REME - HQ ARRC - 4.1.99. T.P.M. Forster, RLC - HQ NI - 19.10.98. P.A. Gray, REME - DGES (A) - 11.1.99. A.N. Mopphet, R Signals - AFIP PN - 30.11.98. R. Robinson, RLC - DGES (A) - 28.9.98. D.J.L. Swann, QRR - JSCSC - 12.9.98.

RETIREMENTS COLONEL: E.J.K. O'Brien - late ODG - retired 13.8.98. A.C. Taylor, late Royal Anglian - retires 16.8.98. Royal Air Force GROUP CAPTAIN: S.D. Butler - RAF Kinloss, 21.8.98. WING COMMANDER: L.A. Cameron - Exchanges USA, 24.7.98. P.R. Hunter - ICAOC Messetmen, 3.8.98. A.D. Fryer - MOD London, 3.8.98. L.D. Thorne - HQLC Abbeywood, 17.8.98. C.R. Bushell - HQSTC, 17.8.98. P.L. Lane - Nato Def Coll Rome, 17.8.98.

Britain's abandoned masterpieces

Dalya Alberge reports on the art treasures the public cannot see

A LEADING art historian yesterday criticised Britain's museums and galleries for letting down the public by failing to ensure that the jewels of their collections are on permanent view and always available.

Christopher Wright, a scholar who compiled the definitive survey of the World's Master Paintings, singled out undisputed treasures by Monet, Renoir and Pissarro as well as a striking Dutch landscape by Philips Koninck, Rembrandt's pupil, at Southampton City Art Gallery.

For more than a year, while he was doing research for an exhibition which opens next Friday, works of international importance remained hidden from view in darkened store-rooms while the galleries were filled by changing exhibitions of modern art. "They have not been up since the 1970s," he said.

The result is that extraordinary masterpieces from the Early Italian Renaissance to the Impressionists will come up for air for eight weeks - and then disappear again into the store-rooms.

The gallery's priorities are wrong, he said, arguing that, however restricted a museum's space, curators must ensure that the most significant works of public collections can be seen.

Southampton is just one example: "It's happening all over the place and should be considered a national problem." He singled out masterpieces such as Jean-Léon Gérôme's *The Execution of Marshal Ney* at Sheffield, which, after a recent temporary display, may not be on

view for another nine months. At the Beecroft Art Gallery in Southend-on-Sea no one can say when a Constable sketch of the River Stour will be back on view.

"Each museum should be saying what are its things of international or national importance," he said. "They should be up come what may. The rest should be rotated."

"Another notorious example," said Mr Wright, who has written dozens of publications including acclaimed studies on Poussin, Georges de la Tour and Vermeer, is Rochdale's *Crucifixion* by Giovanni di Paolo, a master once described as the El Greco of the 15th century. It was lent to the Royal Academy's regional art exhibition this year, and was up in Rochdale some five weeks ago for 20 years before that it had been in store.

Mr Wright argues that where a small museum has a treasure outside its premises, it tends not to bother with it. "Rochdale has got *Victor* - an Italian gold ground painting. The Ashmolean in Oxford or Walker in Liverpool would be more suitable. Why don't collections like Rochdale say, 'let's send it on extended deposit elsewhere, do a bit of wheeling and dealing for something in exchange'?"

He criticised the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich for displaying so little of its collection. The museum curator, Pieter van der Merwe, says that it has 46 oils by the Van de Velde, and feels that it could never display all of them. Mr Wright said: "It is an intellectual question. If you have 46 pictures by the greatest of all seascape painters, and you deem the public is only fit to see some of them, is this right?"

Greenwich is one of the worst examples, he says, because a very low percentage of its collection is on show. "They have created an amazing store off-site, but they have the space to show more."

Mr van der Merwe says that a rebuilding programme will extend the ground space by 30 per cent but the museum has two million items.

Mr Wright lamented how Guildhall has an enormous collection which has "never been out since the wartime bomb. It has a very fine and important Constable and wonderful Pre-Raphaelites, including Millais' 1851 *The Woodman's Daughter*." Staff there confirmed that most of the collection has been in storage although the premises are being rebuilt for an opening in the spring.

At Brighton, he said, the majority of the Baroque,



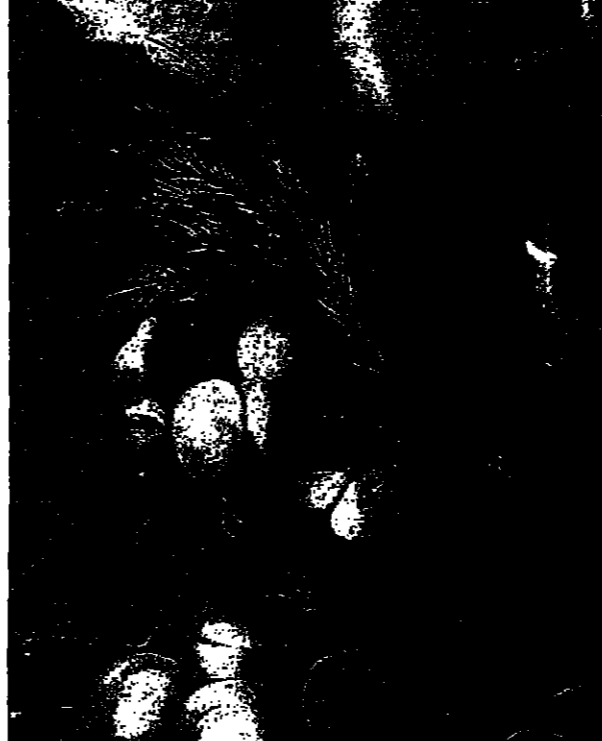
Hidden away at Southampton City Art Gallery: *The last evening* by Jacques Joseph (James) Tissot



Rarely seen: *Wilhelm Mähfeld* by Renoir and *Allegory of Summer* by Giuseppe Arcimboldo

Dutch and Flemish Old Masters are not normally up, although staff say appointments can be made to see them. At Manchester, the entire 20th-century collection, including Hockney's *Peter C* and Lowry's *Piccadilly*, as well as works by Freud and Bacon, has been hidden from view - almost permanently. The gallery, however, is finding a solution. It is closed until 2001 when an extension to the

building will double its capacity. All the collections insist that anyone can book an appointment to see their works, "but how does the public know what's in the store-rooms?" asks Mr Wright. He applauded York for ensuring that the jewels of its permanent collection stay up. "It is totally static, but beautifully static." Southampton, which also boasts striking images by



Tissot and Arcimboldo, is the most extreme offender, said Mr Wright, describing it as "the criminal of all criminals". Its works make up one of the finest regional collections in the country. They were bought on the advice of two successive directors of the National Gallery because two Victorian benefactors insisted that the director had to be consulted on every purchase. "That is why what they have is

of the highest order," said Mr Wright. Extraordinary works include Jacob van Ruisdael and Sisley. Yet, he said, "the entire building is used as an exhibiting gallery for modern work with which it has made a distinguished reputation". David Barrie, director of the National Art Collections Fund - Britain's largest art charity which helps museums to purchase new works - points out that a lot of works



At Manchester: Freud's *Girl with Beret*

in reserve collections are not masterpieces. Quite a lot are too delicate to remain out for long. "There is no easy solution," he observes, noting how on average only 10 to 20 per cent of the nation's collections are on display at any one time. The National Gallery is exceptional because its collection is so small - just 2,000-odd pictures. But the V&A and British museums have millions of objects. "Displaying them is always going to be a problem."

Ivan Lindsay, publisher of Southampton's lavish exhibition catalogue - the first in a series of publications inspired by regional collections - said: "It is really sad that these works are languishing in a basement. I find it amazing that such pictures are just sitting there. You see it all round the country."

Oxford Institute of Legal Practice

Legal Practice Results 1997-98 The following students have been awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice with Distinction: Allen, Sarah; Bainbridge, Michelle; Barratt, Ian; Brogaard, Rachel; Brown, Helen; Carroll, Naomi; Chessers, Celia; Cornwell, Jane; Costello, Bonnie; Daniel, Elizabeth; Darbon, Cery; Drummond, Edward; Dunn, Eloise; King, Paul; Lindsay, Kim; McLernon, Lee; O'Hara, Glenda; Pace, Susan; Paliakos, Arizadne; Ryman, Julia; Singleton, Kirsten; Thatcher, Emma; Went, James; Whiteaway, Clare

The following students have been awarded the Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice with Commendation: Baskerville, Simon; Brighouse, Benjamin; Browning, Susannah; Burke, Carol; Bustan, Camilla; Russell, Mark; Caldwell, Emma; Collins, Deborah; Cooper, Nicola; Crowther, David; Davidson-Shirio, Gregory; Davies, Elin; Davis, Sarah; Fraser, Jamie; Gibbs, Clare; Godbolt, Justin; Grewar, Ann; Hall, Graeme; Ho, Eric; Hogge, Rachael; Jackson, Clare; Jupp, Elizabeth; Khetia, Kiran; Knight, Peter; Knowles, Matthew; Knox, Andrew; Lightfoot, Charles; Ling, Kathryn; McCormack, Lynn; Moor, Christine; Nakhwal, Jasvinder; Newberry, Susan; Petersen, Dagmar; Reavley, Rowan; Richards, Matthew; Rowlands, Lynn; Russell, Lesley; Smith, Martin; Southern, James; Stephens, Christopher; Stewart, Beverley; Stone, Timothy; Stott, David; Sweetland, Jeremy; Swinburn, Elizabeth; Tang, Vik; Turner-Kerr, Peter; Wardale, Sharon; White, Karen; Williamson, Emma; Zanre, Ruth

The following students have been awarded the Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice: Akhtar, Shamim; Appleby, Wendy; Bawa, Desistava; Cooper, Michael; Davies, James; Duffy, Michael; Fabry, Kristof; Hunter, Steven; Huggard, Patrick; Hughes, Kieran; Johns, Marianne; Kochman, Julia; Pugh, Nicholas; Smith, Rebecca; Webb, Brian; Wong, Raymond; Wright, Jonathan; Young, John



Sarah Phimister and Robert Walker of Fulham, London, who have recently announced their engagement

US TEAM CLAIMS IT HAS LOCATED TITANIC

From Michael Leapman New York, August 15

A GROUP of American researchers believe they have found the wreck of the Titanic, the giant liner which sank in the Atlantic 68 years ago.

One of the team told the Associated Press by radio-telephone that their scanning equipment had found the outline of a ship of the right proportions in 12,000ft of water about 380 miles off Newfoundland.

"We won't be sure until we send the television cameras down," said Mr Michael Harris, leader of the team, "but the sonar shows it's the right length, right width and right height for the Titanic."

The present expedition was financed by Mr Jack Grimm, a Texas oil millionaire. The team of 38 left Florida in the middle of last month but was delayed in reaching the site by bad weather. Mr Grimm has financed several

ON THIS DAY August 15, 1980

The loss of the Titanic in 1912 is one of the most gripping disaster stories of all time, with yet another programme about it on television next week. Last week a 20-tonne riveted steel section of the liner's hull was raised from the ocean bed for the first time. It will be put on show at a museum in Boston, Massachusetts.

adventures of this kind, including searches for the Loch Ness monster and the "abominable snowman". If the wreck does prove to be that of the Titanic, the team will photograph it and try later to remove any valuables which are accessible. The wealthy passengers had jewellery on board said to be worth many millions of pounds. Much of it is believed to be in

Anniversaries

one place, a safe in the purser's office.

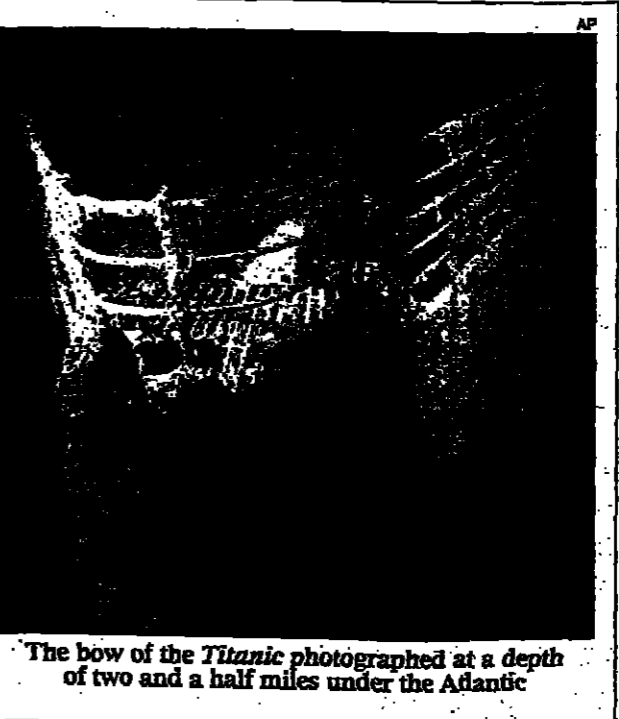
Five years later, in autumn 1985, an American-French oceanographic survey team, led by Dr Robert Ballard, pinpointed the wreck's exact position, and using remote-control cameras, photographed passengers' luggage, beds from their cabins, and well-preserved wine bottles, as well as identifying one of the ship's boilers. Mr Grimm, still optimistic, said that he planned a salvage operation the following year or in 1987. Later in 1985 an Admiralty Court ruled, in a case about items worth £2.5 million salvaged from the wreck of the Lusitania, that the Government had no right to items brought from wrecks outside territorial waters - thus removing any legal threat to plans to raise the Titanic or its contents. Two years later a French team brought up 900 items, including the ship's safe. More than 1,500 people died when the liner struck an iceberg off Newfoundland during its maiden voyage.

Anniversaries

TODAY BIRTHS: Robert Blake, admiral, Brigadier, Somerset, 1939; Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of France, Ajaccio, Corsica, 1769; Sir Walter Scott, novelist and poet, Edinburgh, 1771; Thomas de Quincey, writer, Manchester, 1785; James Keir Hardie, Chairman of the Independent Labour Party 1893-1900 and 1913-14, Lanark, 1852; Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, composer, London, 1875; Ethel Barrymore, actress, Philadelphia, 1879; Sir Peter Buck, Maori politician, Urenui, New Zealand, 1880; Sir Montague Burton, multiple tailor, Sheffield, 1885; Edna Ferber, novelist, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1887; Thomas Mboya, statesman, Kenya, 1930. DEATHS: Macbeth, King of Scotland 1040-57, killed, Lumpharn, Aberdeen, 1057; Joseph Joachim, violinist and composer, Berlin, 1907; Paul Signac, painter, pioneer of Pointillism, Paris, 1935; René Magritte, Surrealist painter, Brussels, 1967.

Anniversaries

VJ-Day was celebrated to mark Japan's unconditional surrender to the Allies, 1945. The Tivoli Pleasure Gardens opened in Copenhagen, 1843. The Panama Canal was opened, 1914. The Marine Broadcasting Act came into force, outlawing pirate radio stations broadcasting within British territorial waters, 1967. The three-day Woodstock Music and Art Fair began on a dairy farm at Bethel, in upstate New York, 1969. TOMORROW BIRTHS: Ralph Thoresby, anti-quary, Leeds, 1658; Catherine Cockburn, dramatist, London, 1679; Carolina Oliphant, Lady Nairne, songwriter, Gask, Perthshire, 1766; T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia), Tremadoc, 1888; Georgette Heyer, historical novelist, London, 1902; Houari Boumediene, President of Algeria 1965-78, Guelma, 1932. DEATHS: Thomas Fuller, scholar, London, 1661; Ramakrishna, teacher and writer, Calcutta, 1886; Robert Bunsen, chemist, Heidelberg, 1899; Umberto Boccioni, sculptor, Verona, 1916; Sir Joseph Norman Lockyer, astronomer, Salcombe Regis, Devon, 1920; "Babe" Ruth, baseball player, New York, 1948; Douglas Hoeg, 1st Viscount Hailsham, Lord Chancellor 1928-29 and 1935-38, Sussex, 1982; Louis Jouvet, actor, Paris, 1951; Irving Langmuir, physicist, Ralmouth, Massachusetts, 1957; Wanda Landowska, harpsichordist, Lakeville, Connecticut, 1959; Selman Waksman, discoverer of streptomycin, Nobel laureate 1952, Hyannis, Massachusetts, 1973; Elvis Presley, singer and actor, Memphis, Tennessee, 1977; John George Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada 1957-63, 1979. The Peterloo massacre took place at St Peter's Field, Manchester, 1819. Cyprus became an independent republic, 1960.



The bow of the Titanic photographed at a depth of two and a half miles under the Atlantic



OBITUARIES

EDITH STANDEN



Edith Standen: judicious in condemnation, generous in praise

Edith Standen, tapestry historian and curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, died on July 17 aged 93. She was born on February 21, 1905.

Edith Standen was revered by textile specialists across the world for her scholarship, dedication, wit and peerless use of the English language, and was loved for her indefatigable humour, kindness and generosity.

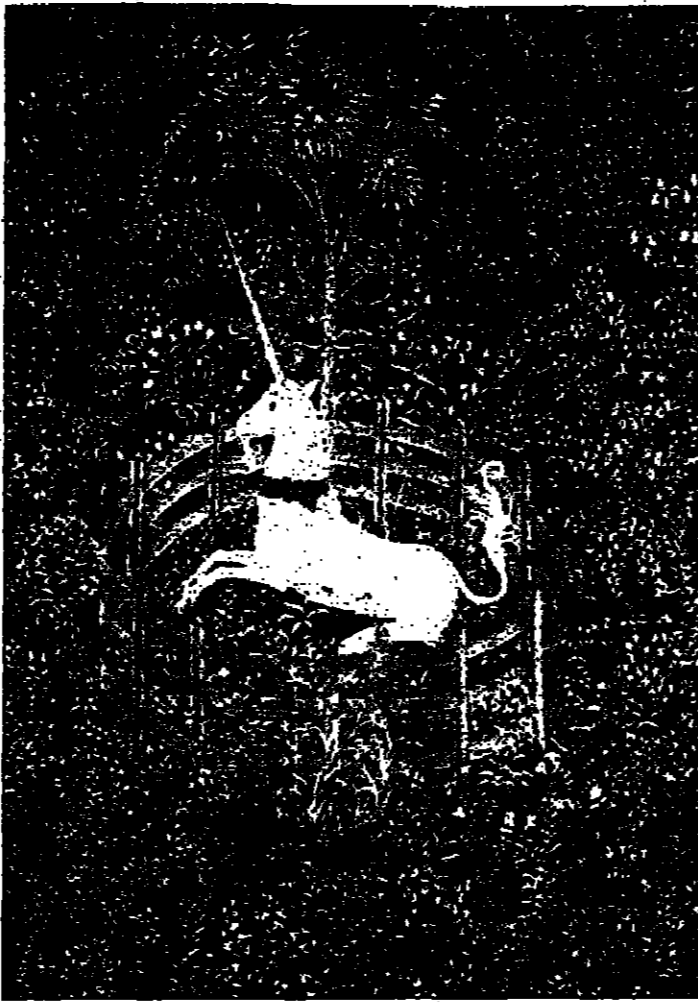
When invited in 1949 to take charge of the textile study room at the Metropolitan Museum, she displayed an immense knowledge of textiles, but immediately began to rectify this deficiency. Soon she was creating attractive exhibitions and writing revelatory articles on a wide range of subjects, from Elizabethan silks to fans. She had liked textiles with a pictorial element, with visual sources to be discovered in other media, and narrative and iconographical details to be explained. She delighted in apt quotations from contemporary literature. In a brief article she could conjure up a whole social and artistic background, besides elucidating specific history and identification.

Retirement from a curator's

care in 1970 enabled her to concentrate on the tapestries she loved, and a series of articles ensued. Apollo published six of them in a single issue in July 1981. Her magnum opus, a two-volume catalogue of European Post-Medieval Tapestries and Related Hangings in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, published in 1985 when she was 80 years old, is a model of clarity, setting standards of scholarship and presentation for succeeding generations.

Born of a British father and an American mother in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where Captain Robert Standen, a British Army officer, was stationed in 1905, Edith Appleton Standen was educated in Ireland and England. She read English at Oxford at a time when few women were admitted, graduating from Somerville College in 1925.

In 1928 she emigrated to Boston, home of her mother's family, and was briefly employed by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities founded by her uncle, William Sumner Appleton. Working also as a volunteer in the Fogg Art Museum, she there took a course in museum curatorship. Joseph Widener then employed her from 1929 to 1942 as secretary for



A unicorn tapestry (c 1500) currently on show in a special exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Standen's catalogue of the museum's post-medieval tapestries was her magnum opus

his fine collection of paintings, until he donated it to the National Gallery of Art in Washington.

In 1942, Standen took American citizenship, and in 1943 she joined the Women's Army Corps, attaining the rank of captain. With the knowledge of art she had steadily been acquiring, she was sent to Europe in 1945 to work as a member of the monuments, fine arts and ar-

chives section of the American Military Government, dealing with the restitution of looted works of art and the immense problems of care and conservation caused by the war.

After she left the US Army in 1947, a project for Unesco was followed by study at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York, until she was headhunted by the Metropolitan

Museum. In 1951 she was promoted to associate curator.

When she retired in 1970 she was retained as a consultant, and finally created curator emeritus in the department of European sculpture and decorative arts. Honours were heaped on Edith Standen in the 1980s. Her catalogue of tapestries won an award from the Art Libraries Society of North America and was celebrated at an international symposium. To mark her 80 years, the Centre International d'Etude des Textiles Anciens held its first international session of tapestry papers at its Krefeld conference, subsequently published in a special issue of its Bulletin. The Metropolitan Museum compiled a bibliography of Standen's writings up to 1985, publishing it with a brief biography in its Journal in 1986. The following year the Women's Caucus for Art honoured her outstanding achievements in the visual arts.

Edith Standen was an exceptional lecturer. She scorned to read from a text, relying instead on her excellent memory and consummate command of English. Her book reviews were trenchant - judicious in condemnation, generous in praise. She would write, too, constructive corrections to the authors, ever helpful, as in her numerous letters to colleagues providing information she had come across pertaining to their work. Her indomitable spirit made light of increasing age. Undeterred by being mugged in Central Park, or by a fall that broke her wrist, Miss Standen went daily into the museum until her last year to work in her tiny study in the library, writing her articles or editing a newsletter. From the age of 75 to 92, she undertook a European tour for a month or two each year, attending conferences, studying tapestries in public and private collections, visiting friends and exhibitions, and pursuing research for her next article.

Her writings are not only a lasting record of the vulnerable textiles she loved, but continue to bring the author brightly to life. She never married.

MILESTONES



General Sir Harry Tuzo, GCB, OBE, MC, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, 1976-78, died on August 7 aged 80. He was born on August 26, 1917.

A former Assistant Commander of Sandhurst and Director of the Royal Artillery, Harry Tuzo became the Army's Director of Operations in Northern Ireland early in 1971, and soon faced the IRA's first determined military offensive, followed by rioting against the introduction of internment without trial, and the horrors of "Bloody Sunday" in Londonderry in January and "Bloody Friday" in Belfast in July 1972. His outstanding success was the planning and execution of Operation Motorman, which prised open the republican "no-go" areas in both cities. He subsequently served as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

André Weil, mathematician, died on August 6 aged 92. He was born on May 6, 1906.

One of the most respected mathematicians of the second half of this century - and brother of the French Christian thinker Simone Weil - André Weil is best known for two things: his fundamental discoveries in number

theory, and his membership of the secretive group of mathematicians who published under the collective pseudonym Bourbaki, whose work helped to redefine the foundations of modern mathematics. Weil will also be remembered for his rather cantankerous persona.

Eve Boswell, popular singer, died in Durban, South Africa, on August 13 aged 76. She was born on May 11, 1922.

Of the female singers who rose to prominence during the television and pop boom of the 1950s, Eve Boswell was the most glamorous and perhaps the most versatile. She made her debut at 16 with the family troupe, and six years later, in South Africa, she eloped with the stepson of the owners of the Boswell Brothers Circus, from whom she learnt English. She sang with the bandleader



Geraldine, and began recording in 1950. Sugar Bush (1952) made her one of Britain's most popular singers, and a radio show and many live performances followed. The haunting Blue Star (1955) remained her favourite song, while Pickin' A Chicken stayed in the charts for 13 weeks. She made her final British stage appearance in 1988, her golden jubilee year.

KAREN ANDERSON

Karen Anderson, designer, died in a car accident in California on July 21 aged 35. She was born in Nottinghamshire on June 21, 1963.

WHEN Jaguar's XK8 - the 160mph, £60,000 descendant of the XJS sports car - took centre stage at the 1996 Geneva Motor Show, few people had heard of Karen Anderson. But it soon became clear that the young British designer had played a key role in developing the distinctive look of what became one of Jaguar's most successful models.

Anderson's brief was simple: Jaguar wanted to appeal to women. Having recognised the increased buying power of women, the company was keen to market a more feminine design, widening the marque's appeal to both sexes. Using a female designer seemed the obvious solution, and Anderson was promoted from within Jaguar's ranks to head the car's design and trim team.

Focusing on colour and emphasising the car's shape, she tried to preserve the aggressive image while promoting a softer, more fem-

inine edges. The idea worked, and Anderson was subsequently given responsibility for the colour and trim of all new Jaguars, including the bestselling XJS sedan.

Karen Anderson was born in the Nottinghamshire town of Skegby, the daughter of Bryan and Joan Hind. After taking a degree in textiles and fashion at Birmingham Polytechnic in 1986, she joined the automotive industry as a colour and trim designer for Land Rover, working mainly on the Defender and Discovery vehicles.

In 1990 she moved to Jaguar and

was employed as a project designer under the direction of Ken Rees before being promoted to design the image of such cars as the XK8.

Always on the lookout for new challenges, however, she moved after seven years to Samsung Motors, where as chief colourist she was able to create a new look for the company's products before her life and career were tragically cut short.

Karen Anderson is survived by her husband John, who was seriously injured in the car accident that killed her.



Karen Anderson in 1996 with scale models showing her colour schemes for the new Jaguar

BMDS: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS

BRADSHAW - Ernest James (Jim) suddenly in the South of France near

AMABLE - On July 21st to

AVLEN - On August 11th

BERRY - On July 21st 1998

CONYBEARE-CROSS - On

COSS - On July 22nd 1998,

GRANT - To Joe and Lesley,

HORRIGBY - On July 21st

LOVEYAN - On August 18th

MACDONALD - BUCHANAN -

MACPHERSON - To

MCGRATH - On August 7th

OBERS - On August 13th

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BIRTHS



Positive end to week

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including Alcoholic Beverages, Banks, Breweries, Pubs & Rest, Building Materials, Chemicals, Construction, Distributors, Engineering, Food Manufacturers, Healthcare, Household Goods & Text, Insurance, Investment Trusts, Media, Mining, Oil & Gas, Property, Retailers Food, Retailers General, Support Services, and Water.

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Advertisement for HARGREAVES LANSDOWN. Text: 'save up to £315 on your PEP ring 0800 850 661'. Includes details about a free discount directory and contact information.

Large advertisement for Devaney's. Text: 'HOT SEAT 2', 'Devaney's', 'Hong with b', 'vention', 'lastic first', 'Shield option', 'ave Hall £2.9'. Includes an image of a person sitting in a chair.



هكذا من زلازل

**HOT SEAT 26**  
Keeping track of Peter Sutherland's quiet rise to the top

# BUSINESS

WEEKEND  
**MONEY**  
SECTION 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY AUGUST 15 1998

## Devaney departs from Eastern with £1.5m



Devaney: £1.5m severance

**By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY**  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN DEVANEY, executive chairman of Eastern Group, yesterday quit after persistent reports of his personal attempts to launch a bid for National Power and to buy power stations from PowerGen. He is expected to collect more than £1.5 million in severance.

from within Texas Utilities to silence Mr Devaney after the latest reports of his plans to launch a £7 billion consortium bid for National Power.

Mr Devaney is thought to be talking to potential partners although he is, as yet, thought to lack a big gun to put up the bulk of the cash. Mr Devaney said he had "decided to look for fresh challenges". Eric Nye, chairman and chief executive of Texas, said: "He had a hard decision to make but he is someone who has made a fair amount of money and has sufficient finances to take a break and think about what he wants next."

Mr Devaney is entitled to a compensation package which is likely to exceed £1.5 million. When The Energy Group was demerged from Hanson last year, he negotiated a deal guaranteeing him two years' salary plus bonuses and benefits if the company was taken over and he left within a year. Eastern refused to comment on his pay-off, nor the amount it will pay him to act as non-executive chairman and advisor.

Mr Devaney was retained in an advisory role by Eastern Group, which, the company said, indicated his departure was amicable. However, industry observers pointed out that British Gas retained Cedric Brown as an advisor following his resignation in the wake of the controversy over his huge pay increase.

Mr Devaney's resignation follows that of finance director Eric Anstee. Mr Anstee, who had a very close working relationship with Mr Devaney, left last week.

National Power's share price rose 14p to 540p after Texas first announced it had "reluctantly" accepted Mr Devaney's resignation but eventually closed 2 1/2p down at 537 1/2p, against a 12-month high of 694p. PowerGen shares closed almost unchanged at 752p.

Commentary, page 25

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5455.0	(+55.5)
Yield	3.02%	(+22.53)
FTSE All Share	2562.2	(+258.09)
Nikkei	15123.83	(-258.09)
New York		
Dow Jones	8459.25	(-0.25)
S&P Composite	1069.83	(-5.08)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long bond	9 3/4%	(106 1/2)
Yield	5.54%	(5.54%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Euribor	7 1/8%	(7 1/8%)
Life long gilt future (Sep)	110.17	(109.91)

STERLING

New York	9.6152	(1.6242)
London	1.6229	(1.6258)
DM	2.9161	(2.9010)
FF	9.7738	(9.7239)
Sfr	2.4390	(2.4187)
Yen	236.29	(236.02)
£ Index	104.3	(104.0)

DOLLAR

London	1.5020	(1.7847)
DM	6.0345	(5.9300)
Sfr	1.5072	(1.4835)
Yen	145.00	(145.00)
S Index	115.0	(114.6)

Tokyo close Yen 144.92

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$12.80	(Nov)
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GOLD

London close	\$284.25	(\$284.65)
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\* denotes midday trading prices

## Hong Kong lifts markets with bold counter-attack

**By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR**

HONG KONG yesterday launched a dramatic counter-attack against international speculators, buying both the Hong Kong dollar and shares in an operation that reaped immediate dividends.

On the stock market, the Hang Seng index soared 564.71 points, or 8.47 per cent, to close at 7,224.69 after a week of very sharp falls to the lowest levels for more than five years.

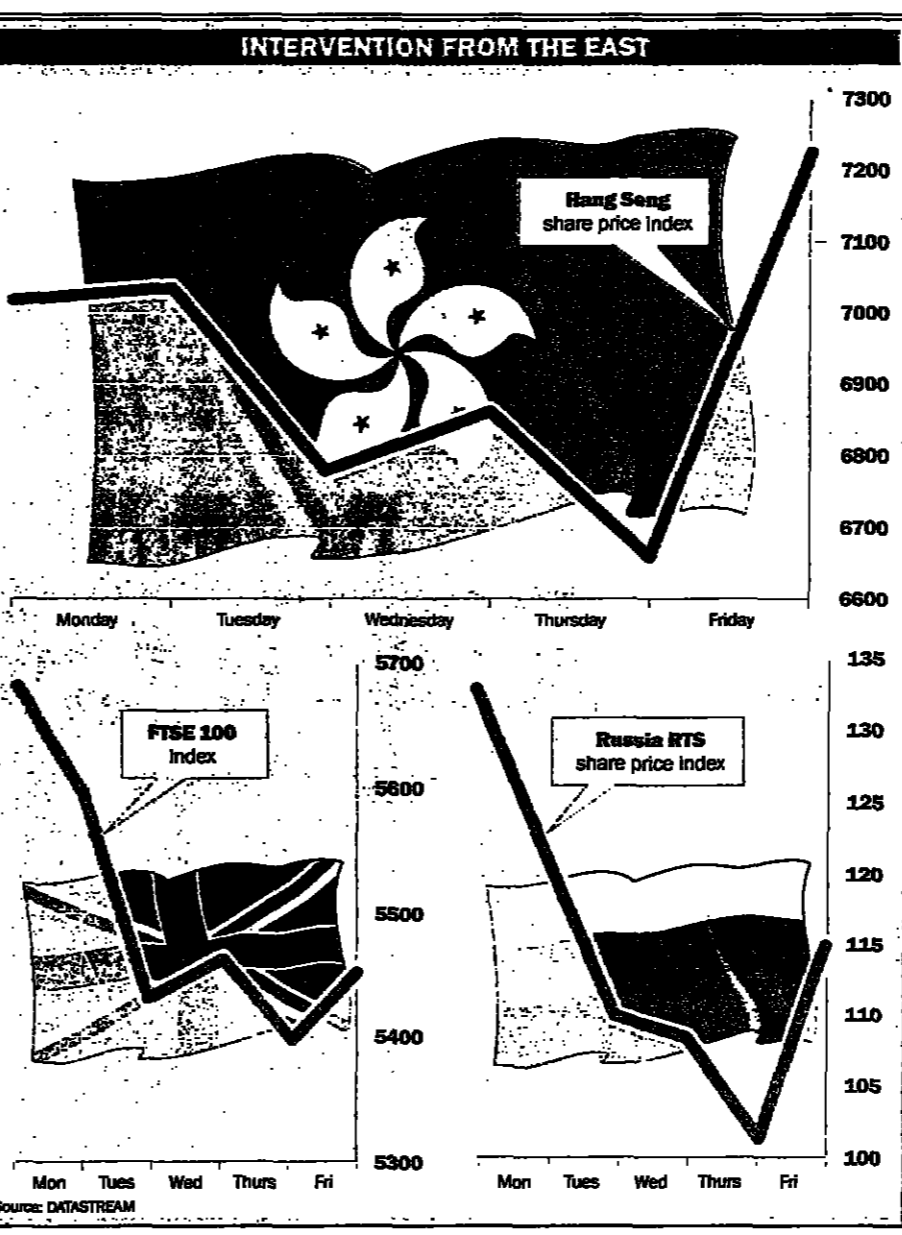
On both sides of the Atlantic, Russian shares soared by 15 per cent yesterday.

In London, the FTSE 100 index closed 55.5 points higher at 5,455, still leaving its loss for the week at 3.9 per cent and a decline over the past four weeks of some 12 per cent.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average opened higher, piling on more than 0.5 per cent in early trading.

The bold action by Hong Kong, coupled with an assurance from Boris Yeltsin, Russia's President, that he will not countenance a rouble devaluation, provided a fillip to markets on both sides of the Atlantic.

The most dramatic events yesterday came in Hong Kong, where the authorities intervened in the stock market to combat what it believes is a large-scale speculative conspiracy against Hong Kong markets.



### Intervention a drastic first

**By OUR ECONOMICS EDITOR**

HONG KONG'S intervention in securities markets yesterday was unprecedented.

Donald Tsang, Financial Secretary, said that Hong Kong had broken with a long-standing policy of non-intervention in stock markets because, for the first time, it had evidence that speculators were indulging in a complex "double play" across the currency, stock and stock index futures markets.

The explanation for a sudden reversal of fortune in the Hong Kong market came after the close, when the authorities revealed their operation.

Donald Tsang, Hong Kong's Financial Secretary, said that the Hong Kong Monetary Authority intervened in the currency and securities markets to punish what he said was "substantial speculative selling of Hong Kong dollars by a few investment houses, acting on behalf of hedge funds".

Mr Tsang said: "In order to achieve their objectives in undermining the Hong Kong dollar, speculators have deployed a whole host of improper measures which are clear to all. These measures include spreading vicious rumours on the de-linking of the Hong Kong dollar with the US dollar, devaluation of the renminbi, as well as the instability of our banks which led to bank runs."

He declined to put a figure on yesterday's intervention but said Hong Kong had sufficient reserves to combat speculation. The last published figure in May put reserves at US\$96.4 billion. Since then, however, the authorities have acknowledged that they have dipped into reserves to defend the Hong Kong dollar.

Commentary, page 25

### Bank of Ireland builds up war chest

**By CAROLINE MERRELL**

THE Bank of Ireland is believed to be gearing up for the takeover of a UK building society or life insurance company.

The bank expects to raise up to £500 million from the sale of its 23.5 per cent interest in Citizens, the US bank, to Royal Bank of Scotland, which already owns the rest of the equity. Talks between the Bank of Ireland and RBS were disclosed yesterday.

The deal would also considerably boost the Bank of Ireland's war chest. Bank of Ireland already owns the Bristol & West, and is believed to be interested in purchasing another UK building society.

One analyst said yesterday: "I would put my money with the Portman or the Chelsea Building Society, as both these societies complement the Bristol & West geographically."

Bank of Ireland could also be in the market for buying a life insurance company such as NPI or National Mutual.

Paul D'Alton, Bank of Ireland group chief financial officer, said: "We came to the view that holding the Citizens stake was not in the long term interests of the bank. The sale will increase our surplus capital, although we are not planning any imminent purchase."

George Mathewson, chief executive of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group, said: "We welcome the opportunity to increase our holding in Citizens, which I consider to be a valuable asset. Over the last two years, we have enjoyed an excellent working relationship with our colleagues in Bank of Ireland."

Tempus, page 27

### Investor in Astra wants Zeneca link

ONE of the largest shareholders in Astra, the Swedish pharmaceutical company, has said that it favours a merger with Zeneca, of Britain, as the most logical solution to a threatened loss of sales from its biggest-selling product (Paul Durman writes).

Talking to a Swedish newspaper, a manager with Franklin Mutual Advisers, part of Franklin Resources, suggested that Zeneca's similar culture and overlapping therapy areas made it an ideal partner for Astra. Franklin, a big US investment firm trading as Templeton in the UK, has 7.7 per cent of the Swedish group.

Astra itself has named Zeneca, Schering-Plough, of the US, and Bayer, of Germany, as its favoured partners.

Speculation about Astra has been fuelled by a recent multibillion-dollar deal that let it extricate itself from its US joint venture with Merck. Zeneca shares rose 38p to £21.50 yesterday. Takeover speculation lifted the shares to £27.62 in April.

### Shield options gave Hall £2.9m

GORDON HALL, who retired as managing director of Shield Diagnostics last October, showed a £2.9 million profit on the exercise of his share options last year (Paul Durman writes).

Shield was one of the best-performing shares in 1997 because of the promise of its test for predicting the risk of heart disease, which appears more reliable than cholesterol testing.

Mr Hall exercised 250,000 35p options the day after he left Shield, and another

125,000 the following month, during which time the shares traded above 700p. It is not clear how many of these shares he has retained. He sold all of the shares that he obtained from exercising 70,000 options in April 1997.

Shield's annual report also discloses that Peter Foster, technical director, made a £448,000 gain from exercising options, while George Zajicek, marketing director, made £436,000. The shares closed at £22.5p yesterday.

### Free cover at a price

ONE of the UK's biggest travel agents is offering holidaymakers "free" insurance and then billing them if they cancel their holidays (Marianne Curphey writes).

One Times reader booked a holiday with Thomas Cook Direct which included free insurance. When her husband fell ill, she cancelled the holiday but was told the premium was £67.40. Thomas Cook said it needed to charge customers in order to cover its costs.

Weekend Money, page 54

### Henlys raises bid for Dennis

THE battle among Britain's busmakers intensified yesterday when Henlys increased its bid for Dennis, topping a hostile offer by Mayflower Corporation (Adam Jones writes).

The latest offer of 0.7 new Henlys shares and 150p in cash, backed by the Dennis board, values the company at £288 million. Henlys, which makes bus and coach bodies, had originally offered 64 Henlys shares for every 100 Dennis shares. Dennis makes bus chassis and fire trucks.

Mayflower, which makes bus bodies through its Walter Alexander subsidiary, has made a 450p-a-share cash bid valuing Dennis at £255 million.

Even though the Henlys share price was strengthened by a pledge by Volvo to buy up to 10 per cent of Henlys, its original offer was worth £45 million less than Mayflower's at Monday's close of trading. Dennis shares rose 47p to 508 1/2p yesterday.

Tempus, page 27

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### A WEEK IN THE CITY

Will anyone in the City feel able to go away in August after this week's events? The towering moment was the surprise \$110 billion (£67 billion) merger of BP and Amoco, which had many an absent pinstripe spluttering Chi-anti beside a Tuscan swimming pool.

How did they keep it secret? One might suggest that Sir John Browne, top dog in the new group and now the UK's answer to Jed Clampitt, has had enough experience of mega-mergers to have perfected the routine. A member of the advisory board of Daimler-Benz, he surely took notes when it linked with Chrysler. Before the BP deal, that was rated the biggest industrial merger. He is also a non-executive director of SmithKline Beecham, whose abortive marriage to Glaxo Wellcome is presumably a case study of what not to do.

The BP/Amoco merger, which should eventually create \$2 billion of savings a year, is in effect a BP takeover (Huirah) say all those patriots saddened by the Rolls-Royce Motors shenanigans. Sir John insisted it is not a defensive measure caused by the slump in the crude price, but those raised some eyebrows among those who saw more than just coincidence.

The deal at first did wonders for the two companies' share prices, but stock markets' mood had already been set and the possibility of similar deals in Big Oil failed to lighten a dark and stormy week for equities.

On Monday, the FTSE 100 index fell 92.8 amid fears of devaluation in China and admission by Keizo Obuchi, Japan's Prime Minister, that its economy is in a prolonged slump. On Tuesday, the day the BP deal was unveiled, it fell 154.8, its second-biggest day loss since the 1987 crash.

The Far East was still the big driver, but UK sentiment was not helped by a CBI survey that showed manufacturers' orders down in every part of the UK in the four months to July.

BOC, the gases group, said 4,900 staff are to be shed, with 700 jobs lost in the UK. Sterling's strength and the Asian crisis were cited as factors, but BOC admitted to fundamental weaknesses in its performance.

The FTSE 100 had a slightly better day on Wednesday, edging up nearly 30 as the market saw the Bank of England's latest inflation report as evidence that interest rates have peaked.

It was a brief respite. George Soros, that noted benefactor to struggling currencies, declared on Thursday that Russia's markets crisis had reached a terminal phase and that the rouble should be devalued by 15 to 25 per cent. Russian shares fell initially by 15 per cent before being suspended. They perked up a little, for a 6.5 per cent fall. The FTSE 100 shared the pain, falling 62.7.

No complaints from Dennis shareholders. Their bus chassis maker had agreed to merge with Henlys to create an integrated bus maker (for some historical reason, the UK likes to supply chassis and bodies separately). Mayflower, the car bodies group trodden on by BMW when it had to temerity to want Rolls-Royce, put in a hostile bid on Monday. However, John Simpson, the Mayflower chief executive, again found himself head to head with a big European carmaker when Volvo took Henlys's side, and vowed to take up to a tenth of Henlys. This lifted Henlys shares and provided a platform for a new Henlys offer yesterday. Dennis investors have seen their shares nearly double in value since February.

ADAM JONES



Japanese corporate failures rise 35%

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

CORPORATE bankruptcies in Japan climbed 35.7 per cent in July from a year ago to 1,710, the highest number for any July in the postwar period, a leading credit research agency said yesterday.

A continuing slump in consumer demand and personal spending, along with sluggish sales, helped to push corporate failures to record levels, said Teikoku Databank in its monthly report. July was the eighth consecutive month in which corporate failures rose more than 30 per cent. However, total liabilities held by the companies that went bust was 16.8 per cent less than in July 1997 at ¥906.19 billion (£3.83 billion). But the debt figure is still the second-largest for the month since the Second World War. The amount for July 1997 was magnified by the large debts held by two building firms when they went under.

Teikoku Databank gave warning that the number of corporate bankruptcies would continue to show a steep rise, despite the Government's shift away from fiscal austerity, large tax cuts and large-scale stimulus measures proposed for the 1999 Budget.

"It is obvious that this is only a drop in the bucket given that a series of emergency economic measures taken since the bursting of the bubble economy have ended in failure," the report said.

BAA lured by possible sell-off of Aer Rianta

By CARL MORTSHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

AER RIANTA, the Irish airports group, is being groomed for privatisation, a move that has aroused interest at BAA, the acquisitive UK airport operator.

The Irish group, which operates airports in Dublin, Cork and Shannon, has been told by the Irish Government to conduct a fundamental review of its future development. The request by Mary O'Rourke, minister for public enterprise, for a strategic review, is widely seen as a prelude to restructuring Aer Rianta into a vehicle which could be sold off.

Aer Rianta is one of Ireland's most successful state enterprises, making profits last year of Ir£46 million (£9.7 million). The Irish airport group could value the group at some Ir£500 million.

However, the airport operator has a huge building programme — Dublin airport alone is spending Ir£100 million on upgrades — and its current returns may be under threat from Brussels.

More than half of last year's profits came from duty-free sales which are expected to be abolished for intra-European

travel by the European Union next year. Aer Rianta's chairman, Noel Horton, has vowed to fight the duty-free ban — Dublin airport recently doubled its duty-free retail space in a Ir£30 million pier development.

A spokesman for BAA said: "We are watching what is happening with interest."

Aer Rianta said yesterday it would consider all options, including a flotation. There has also been recent speculation that the group would sell Great Southern Hotels, a chain which owns eight hotels in Ireland.

BAA competes in the worldwide duty-free business with Aer Rianta which has retail interests in a dozen countries. The Irish airport group's international arm made profits of Ir£5.3 million last year and could be sold off separately — the business co-owns a 40 per cent stake in Birmingham International with NatWest Ventures as well as a half share in Düsseldorf airport, jointly with Hochtief.

Aer Rianta said that its proposals would be presented to the minister early in 1999.



Sir Mark Weinberg, chairman of JRA, the insurer, which has £3 billion under management

Business boosted at JRA

By MARIANNE CURPREY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

AN INCREASE in new business well above the market average at J Rothschild Assurance (JRA) helped push up the shares of its parent company, St James's Place Capital by 7p to 332.5p yesterday.

JRA reported a 22 per cent increase in new regular premiums in the six months to June 30 of £37.1 million. The insurer, chaired by Sir Mark Weinberg, reported a 37 per cent increase in new single premi-

ums to £302.2 million and a 28 per cent increase in total new business to £67.2 million. The latter is calculated by adding new regular premiums and one-tenth of single premiums.

New business across the industry as a whole has risen by an estimated 15 and 18 per cent over the same period.

JRA now has £3 billion of funds under management, up from £2.1 billion in the same period last year.

Mike Wilson, chief executive, said staff had increased from 813 to 850 during the first six months of the year, and said he had set a target of 900 "as soon as possible".

Mr Wilson said Sir Mark had held no discussions with Sir Peter Davis of Prudential, which holds a 29.9 per cent stake in the company and which had been rumoured to be interested in making a takeover bid.

Gas futures inquiry satisfies exchange

THE International Petroleum Exchange has investigated recent price movements on its natural gas futures contracts and is satisfied there is no evidence of market manipulation. The Energy Intensive Users Group — a trade association for big industrial and commercial gas consumers — is believed to have complained about rising prices at a time when many of its members are negotiating supply contracts for the next year.

The International Petroleum Exchange said in a statement that it had investigated the pattern of trades, the parties carrying out the trades and the underlying clients involved in the deals. It concluded that gas prices in both the futures and underlying physical markets had risen generally over the past week, but found no evidence of abuse. John Mackenzie, the International Petroleum Exchange's executive vice-president for market supervision, said: "Allegations of manipulation are extremely serious and people should think carefully before they make them. In this case we have received no official complaint, no hard evidence of any wrongdoing, merely unsubstantiated rumour."

Fairey bid denial

FAIREY GROUP yesterday quashed widespread market rumour that it has had a bid approach from Siebe, but it failed to convince the City that a takeover is off the agenda. The electronics company, whose shares jumped by 19 per cent on Thursday, yesterday said that it "is not in any discussions which may lead to an offer". Its shares immediately dropped 17p to 324p, but rose consistently throughout the rest of the day to close at 330p. City analysts pointed out that the possibility of bid from the US is still open. Siebe shares fell 6p to 956p.

FSA sets 2000 target

THE Financial Services Authority, the City watchdog, has said it hopes to clear up all cases of pensions mis-selling by 2000. The comments came as Patricia Hewitt, economic secretary to the Treasury, revealed that all the pensions firms being monitored by the Treasury have now resolved more than half of their priority mis-selling cases. All but nine of the firms have resolved more than 75 per cent of cases. The deadline for insurance companies to complete priority cases is the end of this year.

EU loan to help Tube

THE European Investment Bank, the EU's financing arm, is lending £123 million to help finance the renewal of London Underground's electricity transmission and distribution systems. The loan goes to Power Asset Development (Padco), responsible for construction work carried out as a Private Finance Initiative under a 30-year concession awarded by London Underground to Seaboard Powerlink. Padco is a subsidiary of Powerlink, a consortium formed by Seaboard, Asea Brown Boveri and BICC.

ECC director resigns

PATRICK DRAYTON, the finance director of English China Clays, the minerals and chemicals group, has resigned to return to Schroders, his former employer. Mr Drayton joined ECC in 1992. A spokesman for the group said that he was leaving because the restructuring he had overseen at the group was now complete and ECC was now entering an "evolutionary" phase. He will leave on October 16. Michael Mack, responsible for worldwide paper chemical product management, has been promoted to the board as executive director.

Morrison buys stores

WM MORRISON, the supermarkets group based in Yorkshire and expanding in the south of England, has bought two superstores from Co-operative Retail Services in Chingford, Essex, and Hull. Morrison plans to open the converted Co-op in Chingford next month and will open its own new store at Erith, Kent, on October 5. Morrison has also recently bought two former Food Giant stores, at Anlaby, Humberside, and Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire, and a Co-op store at St Helens, Merseyside.

Eskmuir advances

ESKMUIR, the recently floated property company, raised first-half pre-tax profits from £3.7 million to £4.5 million and increased net rental income by 17 per cent to £10.9 million. Earnings rose from 6.1p to 7.1p in the six months to March 31; a maiden dividend of 2.2p will be paid. The shares remained unchanged at 193p. John Lamb, Eskmuir's managing director, said: "The flotation was a key step in the development of the company and has provided a significant platform for future growth."

Flare dampened

FLARE GROUP, the engineering company, suffered a loss before tax of £2.1 million (£1.2 million profit) in the six months to June 30. The group recorded a write-off for reorganisation costs. Earnings slipped from 3.6p to losses per share of 4.9p. There is no interim dividend. On current trading the company says the market within the ceramic industry, which it supplies, remains depressed. Apart from America its worldwide customer base is suffering from the strong pound and the Asian financial crisis. The shares were unchanged at 13p.

Profit nibbled at Slug

SHARES in Slug & Lettuce rose from 248½p to 262½p although the pubs chain blamed a year of transition for a fall in profits from £867,000 to £757,000 for the year to May 31 on sales down from £28.3 million to £22.6 million. The company opened 12 outlets in the UK during the financial year and a further three sites after May. Earnings were 4.3p (3.7p) after a fall in the tax charge. The total dividend is held at 6.575p. Tim Thwaites, chairman, said: "I look forward to reporting on a successful outcome for the current year."

Acorn to spin-off holding in Arm

By RACHEL BRIDGE

ACORN, the Cambridge technology group, yesterday unveiled plans to spin-off its remaining 26 per cent stake in Arm Holdings, the microchip designer floated in April, as part of a restructuring.

The group said it was looking at ways of returning the Arm stake, which is worth £130 million, to Acorn shareholders either as a direct shareholding in Arm or in cash.

News of the planned uncoupling came as Acorn revealed it had plunged further into the red in the first half of 1998 with an operating loss of £5.6 million compared with a loss of £1 million the previous year. Pre-tax profits, however, rose to £9.5 million compared with a loss of £1.1 million last time, thanks largely to a £14 million profit from the Arm float.

Acorn also unveiled plans to carry out a disposal and cost-cutting programme in order to focus the company's activities on digital television and the computer terminal market.

Stan Boland, Acorn's chief executive, said: "We are conducting a detailed strategic review where we are looking to achieve a much higher degree of focus."

"Digital television is where we think the company's skills best map on to the market opportunity."

Acorn said that demerging its Arm shareholding would result in a £40 million chargeable gain, which would need to be incorporated into any proposal.

BSkyB drops action

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

BSKYB, the satellite broadcaster, has dropped its legal action against its digital terrestrial rival, OnDigital, formerly BDB, over the "interoperability" of their systems.

BSKYB took out a writ against BDB but did not serve it and the proceedings have now lapsed.

BSKYB, in which News International, owner of The Times, has a 40 per cent stake, had argued that it was in the interest of developing the digital television market that viewers should be able to get access to both digital satellite and digital terrestrial services without having to buy two black boxes.

The two systems can be linked but the first generation of OnDigital boxes will not be able to handle BSKYB's full electronic programme guide.

BSKYB has now decided that it is in its commercial interests to go ahead without trying to enforce full interoperability.

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Astec in £20 trading ge

EU loan to help Tube

second boardroom shake-up at Asda

In the can

Plane failm

THE SUNDAY TIMES

After a brief conversation on his mobile phone, the startled City man announced to his lunch companion: "BP is buying Amoco." The Shell director almost fell off his chair in astonishment.

Business Focus, The Sunday Times tomorrow

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	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.82	2.84
Austria Sch	21.51	19.25
Belgium F	63.29	58.33
Canada C\$	2.586	2.584
Denmark Dkkr	0.8990	0.8984
Denmark Kr	11.69	10.90
Egypt	5.77	5.16
France F	9.41	8.68
France Fr	10.24	9.46
Germany DM	3.078	2.898
Greece Dr	515	478
Hong Kong S	13.42	12.22
Iceland	1.28	1.06
Ireland P	1.2168	1.1276
Italy Lit	6.98	5.70
Japan Yen	3050	2813
Malaysia M	250.78	233.25
Malta	0.675	0.618
Netherlands Gld	3.478	3.188
New Zealand \$	3.35	3.11
Norway Kr	13.01	12.07
Portugal Esc	210.76	208.73
S. Africa R	10.84	9.98
Spain Ptas	258.90	238.80
Sweden Kr	14.01	12.91
Switzerland F	2.580	2.371
Taiwan New	456748	42888
Turkey Liras	1.751	1.588
USA \$		

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هكذا من رايه

# New Statesman's old pals act

**C**ronyism has not died with the embarrassing revelations of Derek Draper's access to 17 influential friends. Being in with the in crowd remains as important as it ever was and if Mr Draper is no longer able to provide the introductions there are other routes available.

Business needs to hear what Government is thinking. What would a company be prepared to pay to get the inside story from the following illustrious gathering: Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer; Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister; Richard Caborn, the Minister of State for Regions, Regeneration and Planning; Alan Michael, Minister of State at the Home Office; and Alan Johnson, a member of the Trade and Industry Select Committee?

Who might be able to assemble such a gathering, except at Labour's own Party Conference? Well, how about Geoffrey Robinson? The Prime Minister may have decided that it would be injudicious to holiday at Robinson's Tuscan villa this summer, so having to make do with a palace a couple of miles down the road, but the multimillionaire Treasury minister still has his friends and supporters, most notably his Government boss, Gordon Brown.

So it is Brown who will give the keynote speech at a conference which promises to "reflect upon Labour's first full year of of-

office, discuss the practicalities of policy implementation and consider the emerging themes and issues that will drive government in the years ahead."

Quite an agenda and one that few businesses will feel they can afford to miss. And the organisation behind it is none other than the *New Statesman*, that radical publication whose board Geoffrey Robinson chairs.

In deference to its former character, the magazine does title the conference "Towards a Radical Century", but the subtitle is more in tune with the reality. "An agenda for business and the public sector," it declares and the line-up should be able to deliver that with a degree of authority.

For a fee of just £464.13 per person, Geoffrey Robinson's organ will be delivering much more than Derek Draper could have produced for the price.

Certain businesses have already eased themselves into a comfortable, cronyish, position with the Government. Tesco, for instance, is in favour and its corporate affairs director will be speaking at the conference on the subject of corporate responsibility. "Red" Adair Turner, director-general of the CBI, will be up on

the platform during the course of the two-day event.

It promises to be an important occasion, if not exactly in the mould of what the *New Statesman's* founders had in mind. Geoffrey Robinson himself is not billed to speak. A shame because his close involvement with Robert Maxwell's companies would have given him an interesting insight on 'a new deal for the workplace'.

**Titanic struggles are making waves**

**F**ar-fetched financial conspiracy theories are ten a penny. The true events of this week have been more bizarre than most. There is no evidence for conspiracy but titanic struggles are being waged between speculators and the international financial order.

Most investors' eyes are glued on their sagging shares in Lon-

## COMMENTARY by our City Editor

don and, perhaps, in New York. Here, prices are adjusting fitfully to a lowering of prospects for short-term growth in output and profits. The process is not over, nor is the outcome likely to become clear in August markets.

In Moscow, bigger stakes are being played for. A collapse of the Russian economy cannot be ruled out if speculators manage to impose either a new rouble devaluation or ruinous interest rates. The purportedly constructive verbal intervention of George Soros has so far been wholly unhelpful.

In Hong Kong, self-help is being tried. The authorities detected a speculative plot by hedge funds to attack the fixed dollar parity and force up interest rates, in order to make a killing from bear positions on local shares, which would have to be sold.

Joseph Yam, spunky head of the Hong Kong Monetary Fund, was allowed to use exchange reserves to buy stock and share in-

dex futures as well as the currency, putting a treble squeeze on hedge funds. More than 45 minutes ahead of a long weekend, this tactic was sensationally successful. Speculators are unlikely to take it lying down next week.

The outcome is important. Most Asian stock markets, which looked to have overshoot after collapsing last autumn, have fallen far lower in recent weeks, shrinking liquidity and deepening economic depression.

Many Asian currencies, with the exceptions of China and Hong Kong, have also been driven too low by speculation and withdrawal of capital. That puts a further squeeze on banks, governments or companies with foreign debts and distorted trade, destroying many Western jobs.

The conventional IMF response is not working either in Russia or in much of Asia, because it does not allow for irrational speculative raids aimed purely at destabilising markets.

Hong Kong could offer a better second-stage response.

If it works, it should provide a model for cost-effective international intervention in countries that lack the reserves to do it themselves. If the hedge funds win, world recession looks increasingly likely.

### Energy drained by Devaney departure

**J**ohn Devaney's departure from Energy Group is said to be "amiable". Since he is to take a £1.5 million pay-off with him, it is understandable that he should be feeling perfectly happy about the parting. But his employers surely have reason to be more than a little aggrieved about having to shell out such a large sum to speed him on his way.

News of the split comes amid a crescendo of rumours that Devaney is working on mounting an independent bid for National Power. The £1.5 million will not take him far towards raising the necessary £7 billion, but it's a start. Why, though, should Texas feel obliged to pay it? The National Power stories did not self-

nite any more than the industry gossip. Word has it that Devaney was so unhappy about not being invited onto the main Texas board that he was looking for an alternative berth.

Devaney had plenty of experience of selling companies so wisely took the precaution of ensuring that his contract would pay out handsomely should he and the new owners of Eastern not get along. But there must come a time when shareholders take a stand against such pre-programmed fruit machines. Jim Fifield rang up a £12 million bonanza when he left EMI because the company had no wish to fight against his generous contract terms.

But if an Eastern engineer had been moonlighting for a rival, the chances are that he would be out without compensation.

### Snail's pace

**G**ROSVENOR INNS evidently thought so much of the potential for 1990s pubs that it changed its name to that of its new Slug & Lettuce subsidiary. Judging from the latest transitional shrinkage of group sales and profits, however, the inching slug seems to be consuming the fast-growing lettuce. Even industry optimists now know that far too many formula bars are being opened in far too short a time for all to prosper. A snail moving at stately pace with a big protective shell might be the best bet.

# Astec in £200m deal as trading gets tougher

By MARTIN BARROW

**A**STEC (BSR), the power conversion business, has announced the US\$325 million (£200 million) acquisition of Advanced Power Systems (APS) from Northern Telecom.

The company, which was at the centre of a battle between its controlling shareholder and minority investors earlier this year, also said that it was passing payment of an interim dividend because of a deterioration in trading conditions.

Astec shares fell 24p to 80p. This compares with a 12-month high of 162p and the 110p that Emerson Electric, the US company that owns 51 per cent of Astec, said that it was prepared to offer minority shareholders earlier this year.

Emerson's offer was rejected by other shareholders, who later failed in a legal action to prevent Emerson from blocking future dividend payments.

Emerson, which has nominated the majority of directors to the board, yesterday said that it acknowledged the long-term benefit of the APS acquisition, but expressed concern about "the potentially negative short-term impact of the acquisition on Astec shares".

The acquisition will be financed by cash and debt and



Howard Lance expects progress in reducing Astec's debt

will leave Astec, which boasted net cash of £55.9 million at the half-year, with gearing of up to 100 per cent. Howard Lance, Astec chief executive, said that he was confident that the enlarged company's

operating profits of \$18 million on sales of \$202 million. Net assets were \$29 million at the year-end.

The company provides power conversion products for use in telecommunications. Sales to Nortel account for about 80 per cent of APS's revenues. Based in Montreal, APS employs 1,600 people in seven countries, including the UK, where products are manufactured at Maidenhead and Harlow. The acquisition includes a long-term supply agreement between Astec and Nortel.

Astec's results for the half year to June 40 show a 7.4 per cent rise, to £10.8 million, in net profits before exceptional items. The results included a £1.9 million charge against costs associated with the Emerson approach. In January, sales fell 18 per cent, to £176.2 million. Mr Lance said that it was "a creditable performance", given a marked decline in second-quarter market conditions. The company, based in Hong Kong, suffered from Asia's economic crisis and from destocking in the personal computer industry.

The company paid an interim dividend of 0.69p in the first half of the previous year.

# Microsoft seeks to delay case

THE Microsoft anti-trust trial is likely to be delayed for two weeks after the company and the Justice Department asked the presiding judge for a postponement (Oliver August writes).

Judge Jackson had opened pre-trial testimony by Bill Gates, the chairman, to the public on the basis of an arcane 1913 law. Microsoft is now trying to keep sensitive documents out of the testimony and the Justice Department has opted to help the company.

The judge has not taken a final decision but Microsoft lawyers are confident the trial will not start before September 22.

In an unusual move, the judge heard the motion to delay the decade's biggest US anti-trust case in a conference call rather than in his courtroom.

# UK businesses contribute to Gehe's success

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

**G**EHE, the German pharmaceuticals company that owns Lloyds Chemists and the AAH wholesale business in the UK, said that the businesses have been successfully restructured and contributed to a 5.7 per cent rise in first half pre-tax profits to DM240 million.

On a comparable basis, without the non-core British companies that were sold during the year, pre-tax profits were up 22 per cent to DM238 million.

For the full year Gehe predicted a significant rise in pre-tax earnings from ordinary activities. Gehe said first-half sales rose 2.6 per cent to DM12.726 billion. In April Gehe said it expected its pre-tax profits to top DM500 million this year.

The better than expected sales surprised analysts who had expected a greater effect from the disposal of non-core businesses.

The group's new structure in the UK made a significant contribution to its success in the first half, Gehe said. Ten administrative locations in the UK have been merged and replaced by a new company headquarters in Coventry.

Although analysts were unconvinced that the restructuring alone had led to the robust sales growth, they acknowledged that if this was true Gehe would be a strong investment stock in a few years.

One analyst said that the group was well positioned in the European pharmaceutical market but that the market needed to be deregulated before it could grow.

# BT forced to lower access cost

BT has been forced by OfTel to reduce what it charges other operators for access to its 136,000 owned or managed payphones (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Last December BT increased its payphone access charge to other operators such as users of free phone numbers from 6.87p per minute to 8.61p per minute. OfTel said yesterday that BT was passing on too many of its costs to other operators.

The new charge, a central cost affecting the price the customer pays for indirect access to BT call boxes, will be 8.10p a minute backdated to December.

BT said that it was disappointed that OfTel had reduced the charge but pleased that the principle of the access charge had been upheld.

# Second boardroom shake-up at Asda

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

**A**SDA has had a boardroom shake-up for the second time in two years by creating the new job of deputy chief executive and appointing a new finance director.

Tony Campbell, currently trading director of the super-markets group, is being promoted to deputy to Allan Leighton, who was appointed chief executive two years ago. Mr Leighton replaced Archie Norman, who is now part-time chairman of the company, an MP and vice-chairman of the Conservative Party.

A spokesman for the company said that Mr Leighton will

remain in charge of trading, marketing and regional coordination, while Mr Campbell, who has been with the company for 13 years, will take charge of areas including information technology and store development.

Phil Cox, finance director, is taking early retirement at the age of 48 and will be replaced by Tony DeNuzzio, who is currently business development director on the management board. Mr Cox, who joined Asda as part of the team that took over when it was close to collapse in 1992, is also non-executive chairman of Virgin Rail.

# Tab confident of replacing finance

By PAUL DURMAN

**T**HERAPEUTIC Antibodies, a biotech firm developing antivenom to treat snake bites, said it has made important progress in its bid to replace the expensive bridging finance it arranged two months ago.

Tab is paying 15 per cent interest on the \$3.15 million (£1.9 million) that it raised in June with a loan note that it must repay before the end of the year.

The company spent \$9.5 million in the six months to June, but it received only \$2.3 million in revenues, leaving it with a loss of \$7.2 million (\$8.6 million).

Andrew Heath, who recently

took over as chief executive, hopes to raise enough money to see TAB through to profitability. Sales of ViperTAB have been boosted by an order from the US military while CroTAB, designed to be effective against most North American snake bites, is scheduled for launch next year.

Listed in London but based in Nashville, TAB which has 160 employees, also operates in Adelaide and Llandysul in Wales — its letter heading reads "Nashville — London — Llandysul — Adelaide". Dr Heath is expected to take steps to rationalise this structure.

# In the can

**D**ENIS BLAIS, one of the co-founders of Belgio, the *moules et frites* chain, has become involved with a new bar concept called Can. The first, selling only cans of beer, is due to open in October in a former butcher's shop in Smithfield.

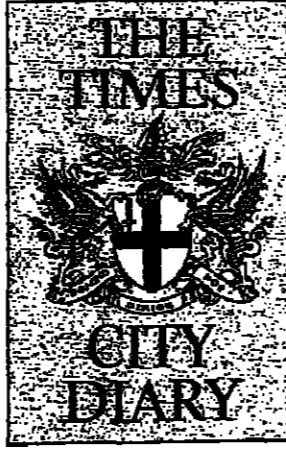
The man behind Can is Steve Switzman, a marketing executive, who has hired Blais as a consultant. Switzman, who is planning a rollout and eventual flotation, has based the concept on a bar in New York called Hogs and Heifers. He tells the stainless steel tubes linked to a recycling area will run through the bar into which drinkers can throw their empty beer cans. While food will be available from vending machines, the emphasis is clearly on serious drinking.

In a previous incarnation, Switzman managed Amsterdam, a rather racy singles bar in Toronto, although he assures me that Can will not be a pick-up joint. But he admits:

"It will be an anything-goes party bar. We want people to have a good time and if they want to get on the bar and dance that's fine."

ONLY in America. Kim Southworth, a Citibank executive in New York, has died and left \$200,000 to be used solely for the pampering of her cat, Ming. Ms Southworth has named her friend, Humberto Rubet, to care for the five-year-old moggy. Any money left over after Ming uses up the last of his nine lives will then go to Rubet. Truly, a fat cat.

**Plane failing**  
FOR those who are terrified of flying, disturbing news reaches from Balpa, the airline pilots association, over the misuse of laser pointers. The latest edition of its in-house mag says there have now been two incidents. The first was mild: a



pilot visiting a garden centre was dazzled by a laser pointer brandished by some kids. The second is frightening: it claims a laser pointer was aimed at the flight deck of a British plane at Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport. The culprit? Someone on the flight deck of a German plane.

**Canada buy**  
NOT content with building a telecoms behemoth, Bernie Ebbers has bought a 164,000-

acre farm in the Canadian wilderness. The WorldCom-MCI chief executive is said to have paid \$67 million for the property — trifling compared with the \$40 billion he forked out for MCI. The deal, which brought with it 20,000 head of cattle, came as no surprise to employees of the Jackson-based company. The maverick Ebbers likes to wear a pair of shiny cowboy boots with his sharp suits.

I KNOW I promised to stop knocking management consultants, but what the hell. Mulling the implications of the BP mega-merger with Amoco, the London office of US consultancy Arthur D Little reckons the deal "will result in a great deal of reflection and activity". Truly fascinating. But there's more. It also says BP and Amoco managers will need to "operationalise" the merger quickly in order to avoid "friction losses". Presumably a case of BP and Amoco staff rubbing each other up the wrong way.

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Richard Miles on how Goldman Sachs's golden partners might spend their windfalls

# A millionaires' club in the making

**I**MAGINE you and your ten best friends are each given £60 million. Would you buy a fancy house and a flashy car, invest the rest of the money and live off the income? Or would you do something a little more adventurous, perhaps clubbing together to buy a Premier League football club or a sun-drenched island in the Caribbean?

To most of us, this is no more than a fantastic dream, but to the 189 partners of Goldman Sachs, one of the most successful and most secretive New York investment banks, it will become reality in just a few months.

This week they decided to press ahead with a stock market flotation of the firm, so ending a 130-year partnership.

The share issue, probably the biggest in the history of Wall Street, is expected to attribute a paper value of between \$25 billion (£15 billion) and \$30 billion to the bank.

To put this in perspective, the float, scheduled for October or November, will give to fewer than 200 people — with an average age of 41 — personal wealth equivalent to more than twice the 1996 gross domestic product of Bulgaria, a country with a population of more than nine million. The question is: will they keep the money within the firm, or sell their stock? And if the latter, what can you buy for \$30 billion?

Goldman intends to sell only 10-15 per cent of its stock, but the flotation will nevertheless increase the worth of each individual partner to an average of \$100 million. Some partners will receive less, but the top guys, co-heads Jon Corzine and Hank Paulson, may reap as much as \$250 million each. Most are American, but there are 37 based in London, some of whom are British. They include Gavyn Davies, the economist who is one of the main advisers to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. Overnight, Mr Davies will shoot into the *Sunday Times* rich-list, sharing the same slot as Sean Connery, Barbara Taylor Bradford and Dave Gilmour, the guitarist with Pink Floyd.

The staff will also be given a slice of the cake, but unlike the partners they may have to wait as long as seven years before they can cash in their windfalls. About 200 managing directors, second-tier part-

ners who own no equity, will receive between \$10 million and \$20 million. The 11,500 employees will get a far smaller sum, based on salary and length of service.

Windfalls for the staff are not simply a token of the partners' unbounded generosity. Without lucrative bonuses — Goldman is reported to have earmarked \$6 billion for this purpose — key employees will simply up sticks and move to whichever bank writes out the largest cheque. As a consequence, the unique Goldman culture which has enabled it to attract some of the most talented people in the industry and make it one of the most respected investment banks in the world would dissolve.

The public will have to wait until late August for the final details of the flotation and the share distributions, when Goldman files the proposals for its initial public offering with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Yet, whatever surprises lurk in the small print, Goldman's critics say the golden 189 are plundering the legacy built up by earlier cadres of partners. In public, Mr Corzine and Mr Paulson have uttered a few vague words about needing the additional capital to aid Goldman's expansion plans, amid the frenzy of mergers and acquisitions in US banking. The \$100 billion merger of Travelers and Citibank in particular, to create America's biggest financial institution, has set a new measure of scale for Wall Street's investment banks and counting houses.

That, in part, explains the timing of the Goldman decision: the firm has considered flotation several times before, only to reject the idea. The other incentive stems from the long bull run on Western stock markets, helping to value businesses such as Goldman at prices never seen before — and perhaps never again. A quick glance at the few figures available and a little basic arithmetic shows the power of the economic argument for flotation.

At the end of June this year, Goldman disclosed that it had a capital base of \$6.6 billion. This sum, more than the total value of the Hungarian stock market in 1996, already belongs to the partners. Assuming a flotation tag of \$30 billion, the partners will see their



Goldman Sachs's headquarters run by Hank Paulson, top left, and Jon Corzine, top right, wields financial clout on a par with George Soros, below



wealth multiply by four-and-a-half times. However, the true return on their money is higher still. Of the existing capital, an estimated one fifth belongs to the limited partners, mostly retired partners who receive interest on their equity. A further \$1.5 billion is owned by a handful of external investors, who include Sumitomo Bank of Japan and various other institutions.

It is believed that the current 189 partners have the right to buy out their retired predecessors at book value: that is a dollar for each dollar of equity, rather than \$4.50 for each dollar. In fact, Mr Corzine and Mr Paulson are being a little more generous, offering the

limited partners cash at 1.25 times their book value. Goldman Sachs stock at 1.55 times book value which they have to hold for a fixed period, or an eight-year debenture paying 12 per cent.

On the assumption that the limited partners and the external investors both take stock in exchange for their combined \$2.7 billion stake, their share of the \$30 billion float will be a mere \$4.2 billion — roughly this year's budget for the Department of Trade and Industry. This leaves the partners with \$25.8 billion against an original stake of just under \$4 billion — equivalent to a return of more than six times on the current worth of their in-

vestment. Insiders suggest that the true gain could be closer to nine or even ten times their original equity.

Put another way, if the value of your £100,000 house had appreciated by a multiple of four and someone offered you £600,000, would you refuse to sell? Most homeowners would probably take the money, knowing they could buy a similar property and pocket the difference.

**S**o what will the Goldman partners do with their new-found wealth? To date, the speculation has centred on what the firm might buy with its capital. The most popular theory is that Goldman will

use the money to build up its asset management operations through a combination of organic growth and acquisition. Market-watchers talk of a deal with JP Morgan, the US investment bank, or perhaps with Merrill Lynch, another Wall Street firm.

But there is unlikely to be anything in the proposals to deter the partners from cashing in their chips and using the money for their own ends. If there is, they can always raise money against their stock. And why should they stay? After all, they have already reached the top of their chosen profession: partnership at Goldman Sachs is viewed by many in investment

banking as the ultimate career goal. And after flotation, Goldman could lose some of its shine once exposed to prying external investors.

One senior banker said: "It is an intriguing thought, and just a little bit alarming. Here you have a group of people who know and trust each other, backed by huge personal wealth."

the overnight creation of super-rich individuals, usually through stock options in high-technology companies such as Microsoft or Computer Associates. More recently, Yahoo, the producer of Internet navigation software, has turned many rank-and-file employees into paper millionaires, yet the company only showed its first profits this year.

But Goldman's flotation will take this trend one stage further, creating a tightly bound network of mega-rich financiers at the peak of their profession. Their combined worth will exceed the total wealth of many developing nations, and their reputation will give them access to many institutions. If they stick together, they could be richer and more influential than some countries.

**T**he partners also have the expertise and contacts to do deals.

While lottery winners must content themselves with buying a Rolls-Royce, it would take just six or seven Goldman Sachs partners to pay cash for the whole Rolls-Royce company, that is assuming that new owner Volkswagen was prepared to sell.

As Victor Kiam once said so famously of a razor: "I liked the product so much, I bought the company." And, if George Soros can single-handedly force the devaluation of a currency, then what damage could the network of Goldman Sachs partners do? Bring down European economic and monetary union by attacking the euro?

However, the one dark cloud on their otherwise rosy horizon is a growing feeling that Wall Street is heading for a serious correction. If not a crash, US stocks are down 10 per cent from their peak this year, and many analysts believe they have further to fall as the impact of the crisis in South-East Asia reverberates around the world. The bears are starting to outnumber the bulls.

If the market correction comes, then the Goldman partners will have to be satisfied with, perhaps, just \$20 billion between them.

This wouldn't be too bad though: it still amounts to more than the combined gross domestic product of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

**CULTURE**  
Flirting with the enemy: Plácido Domingo tells Bryan Appleyard why he's done a pop album  
PLUS: FREE X-FILES CD, final token

**MAGAZINE**  
Light relief: medicine switches on to the extraordinary healing power of light

**STYLE**  
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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

## The corporate charmer with a political pedigree

**H**as Peter Sutherland peaked? It is difficult to see where he could go next. By the end of the year the former Irish politician will be chairman of Britain's largest company and, if that were not enough, he will take part in the flotation of Goldman Sachs as chairman of its international business, crystallising a large fortune as an equity partner.

Sutherland was keeping a low profile this week. He appeared on stage to say a few words of introduction as British Petroleum announced the takeover of Amoco, the biggest gamble of its history. It was chief executive Sir John Browne's day and, ever the perfect diplomat, Sutherland kept in the background.

The chairman and the chief executive of BP make an unlikely pair: Peter, large and jowly, a former rugby captain, lawyer and Irish Euro-politician; Sir John, diminutive and dapper, a Cambridge-educated engineer, opera buff and art collector.

If they seem opposites, that is probably intended. Ever since Sir Robert Horton's calamitous rise as chairman and chief executive, BP has been obsessed with creating balance in its boardroom. Sutherland is a friend of Lord Simon of Highbury, a former BP boss who shares Sutherland's passion for European integration.

Sutherland, at 52, seems to have risen without trace, or if there were tracks, he has a million fans sweeping them from the path. "Charming", "a brilliant negotiator", even "lovely" are words used to describe him. Others say "a smooth operator", who never puts a foot wrong "because he is never seen to put a foot wrong".

Trained as a lawyer, Sutherland honed his skills in the art of tough negotiation by breaking his nose nine times on the rugby pitch for University College Dublin.

He was unsuccessful in running for a seat in the Dail but failure at the hustings has not kept him from wielding politi-

Failure on the hustings has not prevented Peter Sutherland from wielding political power.

cal power. Garret Fitzgerald, the former Irish Prime Minister, spotted his talents and made the 35-year-old Sutherland Attorney General in the Fine Gael Government.

Next stop was Brussels, where Sutherland made his mark, turning what was then a backwater — competition policy — into a political hotbed. He irritated Socialist Euro-colleagues with his aggressive support for the free market and attacks on state aid. He took on the international airline cartel and suffered spurious accusations of being anti-British when he intervened in BA's takeover of British Caledonian and the British Aerospace bid for Rover.

If Sutherland's career has reached its high point it probably took place at Gatt. He became its Director-General in 1993 as the world's multilateral trading system faced complete collapse. Over the next two years he managed to cajole, flatter and bully more than 100 countries into signing a new world trade agreement, leading to the creation of the World Trade Organisation.

He still keeps the gavel he used in the final round of talks, *coming off tedious arguments with a bang.*

Sutherland did the job with a mesopneum, something the sleepy Geneva diplomatic community was not used to. Shortly after his arrival at Gatt, he rushed into his office and barked: "Get me the President." Unused to such requests, a secretary eventually summoned up the courage to ask to whom he was referring. When told "the President of the United States", there was a further delay while his staff struggled to find out how one telephoned the man in the White House. Such high-level contacts, particularly among developing countries, explains why Peter Sutherland is at Goldman and BP, where a president's telephone number can sometimes be useful.

But one wonders whether he will miss politics. Investment bankers are a secretive bunch and often prefer to do deals out of the public gaze. Sutherland is alleged to have turned down an opportunity to run for President of Ireland, a largely honorary post. But what about Secretary-General of the United Nations? Sooner or later, it could be a European's turn.

CARL MORTSHED

**IN THE HOT SEAT**

**Born:** April 25, 1946  
**Educated:** University College and King's Inns, Dublin.  
**1969-1981:** Practised at the Bar.  
**1981-1984:** Attorney General of Ireland.  
**1985-1989:** European Commissioner responsible for competition policy.  
**1989-1993:** Chairman of Allied Irish Banks.

**1993-1995:** Director General of GATT and subsequently of the WTO.  
**1995-present:** Chairman and managing director of Goldman Sachs International. Chairman (non-executive) of British Petroleum. Non-executive director of ABB and Ericsson.  
**He is married and has three children.**

Talk of HS Lloyds le







NEWS

Clinton affair was 'sexual, not sex'

Bracing himself for the most perilous moment of his presidency, Bill Clinton was ready to admit having had sexual contact with Monica Lewinsky. Mr Clinton was said to have held intensive discussions with advisers about the legal and political implications of acknowledging an intimate relationship with the former White House trainee. Pages 1, 14, 19

Leonardo painting found in London

A painting in the National Gallery attributed to Verrocchio actually features the hand of the master's most important student: Leonardo da Vinci, a leading American scholar claims. Fewer than 20 paintings by Leonardo survive and the discovery of another would be sensational. Page 1

Congo evacuation

The Royal Marines were on stand-by for possible evacuation of British nationals from the Democratic Republic of Congo, as rebel forces advanced on Kinshasa. Pages 1, 15

Lost language

The language of transpoting has changed so much that a middle-aged enthusiast could hardly communicate with youngsters. Page 11

Altruism prevails

Garrick Club members voted to use part of a £50 million windfall to set up a charity to help struggling artists. Page 2

Owen fights for name

Michael Owen is facing a battle to protect his name. The day after the World Cup final an opportunist with an eye on marketing applied to register it as a trademark. Page 8

Smartcard solution

The world's biggest smartcard transport system will open up an era of cashless travel and loyalty bonuses in London. Page 11

Yeltsin backs rouble

President Yeltsin emerged briefly from his summer holiday to reiterate his determination not to devalue the rouble. Page 15

Britons join bomb team

A British team is to join American experts investigating the explosions that killed more than 260 people in East Africa. Page 15

Hippy ideals

Ed Garry said his crossing of the Atlantic in a boat made from recycled rubbish was the high point of his art. Page 7

Chart beat: The Beatles

went straight to No 1 in a chart of the public's favourite musical acts that reflects conservative tastes. Page 16

No barks or bites with Rover the robot

Engineers at Sony have created a robot dog that is obedient, house-trained and guaranteed not to bite. It can walk, run, chase a ball, sit up and beg, all in response to voice commands. All that is missing is a mouth. Page 12



A traditional flower carpet, comprising 700,000 begonias, at the Grand Place in Brussels. It is expected to attract 100,000 visitors

Mad dogs and offshoots: If the Government wants schools to be places of order and security, it must trust teachers more and pay them less. Page 19
Simon Jenkins: Words are free, but grammar is too important to be left to grammarians who don't see why infinitives matter. Page 18
Ben Macintyre: The French are serious about les grandes vacances. Holidaymaking to be a serious business, not to be disturbed by such mundane considerations as economics, politics or diplomacy. Page 18
Economy: Hong Kong launched a dramatic counter-attack against international speculators. Page 23
Energy: John Devaney, executive chairman of Eastern Group, quit after persistent reports of his personal attempts to launch a bid for National Power. Page 23
Weekend Money: Students will be able to win £8,000. Pages 49-56
Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 55.5 points to close at 5455.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 104.0 to 104.3. Page 27
Football: Racist abuse will be a red-card offence when the Premiership kicks off. Page 29
Cricket: Sri Lanka won the opening match of the triangular tournament against South Africa at Trent Bridge. Page 35
Rugby union: The RFU conceded defeat in its attempts to launch a British league. Page 31
Rolls comeback: The power of a Spitfire-engined special. Pages 45-47

SECTIONS

the times magazine

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Sister acts: On the road with the group of women musicians hoping to rock Britain. Page 24
Calling shots: The Miami detective who poses as a Mafia assassin. Page 34

WEEKEND

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All grown up: Jay McInerney is still telling city tales of models and mayhem. Page 16
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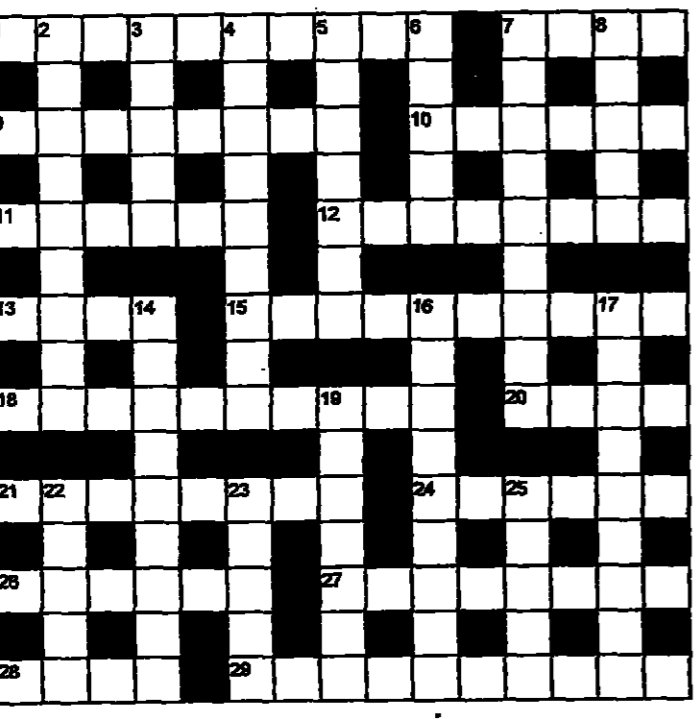
Vision

Seven-day listing of radio and 40 TV channels. Page 1
meg@
The MEG@ League: our new soccer game.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,871

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 496, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



- ACROSS
1 Special skill required with board game - it's very close (5-3-2).
7 Partner's decisive win (4).
9 The most powerful one in the game is female, however (8).
10 Half a dozen discarded from hand allowed as well (3,3).
11 East the person bidding higher, we hear, in rubbers (8).
12 How a chess game is likely to continue, many coaches take it (4,4).
13 Attempts to get card game under way (4).
15 Champion gets something to eat after game (10).
18 Draw with this line placed strategically (4,6).
20 Card-players' calls made in bridge, going towards West (4).
21 Cheat to secure a point in this game (8).
22 Deepest move initially is not worked out (6).
23 Small vehicle king used in game with skill (2-4).
27 Lots of drawing in this game (8).
28 Exploited ruse Diplomacy requires (4).
29 Player looking ahead gets start I bungled (10).

Solution to Puzzle No 20865
SALS WORTHY AMOS
LA HQ AO
IMPROBABLE FRAI
B P S D P G R
GOSTOPFIVING
TUE QENR
RINGSIGER CLARA
O D Y T E L P
CZECH APHRODITE
K R E T F A B
LOWER CHAMBER
E A S B R E N T G O S E
E A Q H M E
D O M S P I R I T L A M P
Solution to Puzzle No 20870
DISEMBARK LOGIC
E C O R I A O R
GREENER MEMENTO
A N A I E D W
SWEAR VICARIOUS
R C E A L A N
JAY HIDING PLACE
O A E D O S
BATTLE ROYAL BUT
S E L C S O U
WELBURN SARAH
O L A B H R O
RUBBISH INITIAL
T O R U P R T S
HAYDN GREAT COAT

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HOUSING DARKNESS
TODAY
Sun rises: 5:47 am Sun sets: 8:24 pm
Moon sets: 2:51 pm Moon rises: ---
TOMORROW
Sun rises: 5:47 am Sun sets: 8:22 pm
Moon sets: 3:04 pm Moon rises: 8:03 am

RISE TIMES
TODAY
Abandon 6:30 AM 10:21 PM
Albion 6:30 AM 10:21 PM
Alps 6:30 AM 10:21 PM
Alps 6:30 AM 10:21 PM
Alps 6:30 AM 10:21 PM
Alps 6:30 AM 10:21 PM

HIGHEST & LOWEST
Yesterday: Highest dry temp, Gwentland, Kent, 27C (61F); lowest dry temp, Sella Neve, Shetland, 8C (46F).
Forecast: High 26C (79F), low 15C (59F); highest sunrise: Jersey, 12.3h

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
41% of the paper material for UK newspapers is the first roll of 1987

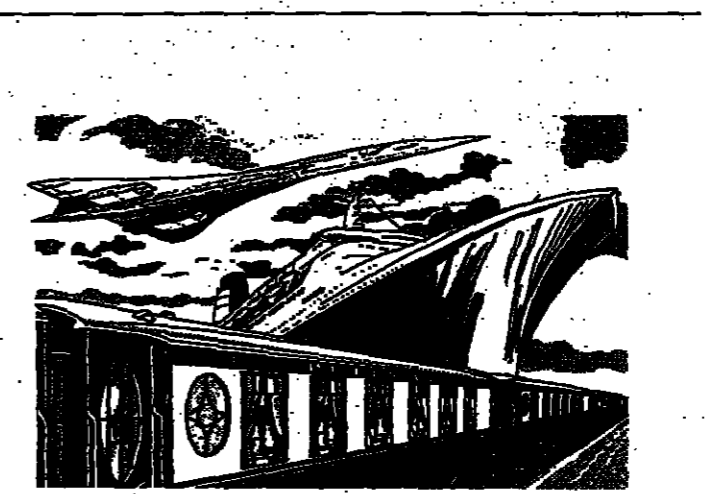
General morning rain will clear southeast England, then England and Wales will have decent sunshine but there will be showers from midday, especially in northern England and Wales, where a few sharp showers are likely towards evening. Western and northern Scotland and Northern Ireland cool, blustery, with showers, heavy at times. Well-scattered showers in eastern and southern Scotland with sunshine between the showers.
London, SE England, E Angles: cloud and rain clearing with long sunny breaks developing. Light SW then NW wind. Max 23C (73F).
Cent S, SW England, Midlands, S Wales: sunny spells. Light northwest wind. Max 22C (72F).
E, Cent N, NE England: long sunny spells and scattered afternoon showers. Light to moderate west to northwest wind. Max 21C (70F).
Channel: fog and drizzle clearing with sunny spells developing. Light SW then NW wind. Max 23C (73F).
Wales, NW England, Lakes, hills: sunny spells, afternoon showers. Light W to NW wind. Max 20C (68F).
Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: sunny spells and scattered afternoon showers. Mod to fresh SW wind. Max 20C (68F).
SW, NE Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll: cool with blustery showers. Mod to fresh SW wind. Max 18C (64F).
NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cool, blustery showers. A fresh to strong SW wind. Max 18C (61F).
N Ireland: cool, blustery showers. Mod to fresh SW wind. Max 18C (64F).
Republic of Ireland: dry with sunny spells. Light W wind. Max 21C (70F).
Outlook: rain in many parts on Sunday but southern England staying dry. A spell of rain on Monday with rain or showers in most parts.

ANYWHERE

Table with columns: City, Sun, Rain, Max, Min. Lists weather for various cities like Aberdeen, Angora, Antalya, etc.

ANYWHERE

Table with columns: City, Sun, Rain, Max, Min. Lists weather for various cities like Accra, Aden, Algiers, etc.



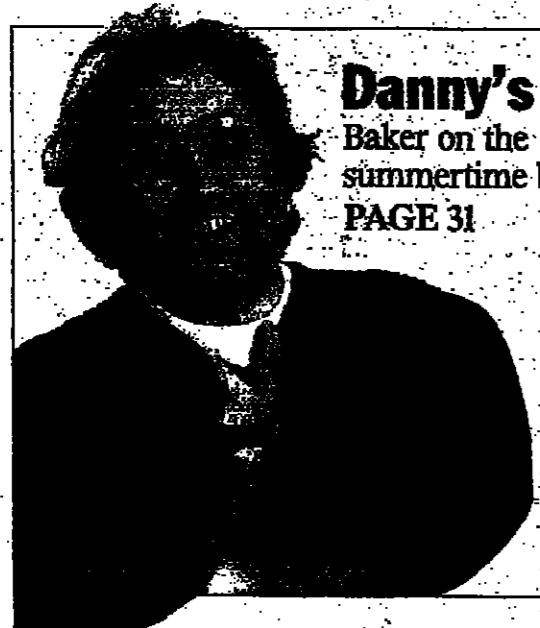
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Advertisement for 'The Times' magazine featuring a large image of a man's face and the text 'Racism gets renewed'.



هكذا من زكوه

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT



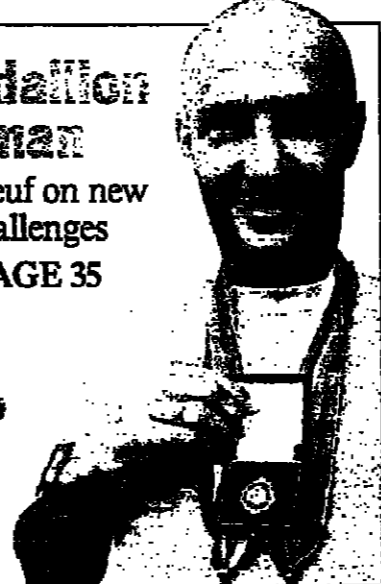
**Danny's back**  
Baker on the summertime blues  
PAGE 31

**Tiger hunt**  
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**80**  
**LICHFIELD FINDS HIS OLD BIKE**  
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**WEEKEND MONEY**  
**THE HOT FOOTBALL SHARES**  
PAGE 51

THE TIMES SATURDAY

SPORT 14 PAGES

AUGUST 15 1998

BOOK CONTROVERSY

OVERSHADOWS NEW SEASON



Ghost story: Hoddle, foreground, and Davies, the FA's director of public affairs, who is the co-author of the England coach's colourful and controversial World Cup diary. Photograph: Adam Butler

# Hoddle comes under renewed heavy fire

AFTER five days of firing off criticism through the serialisation of his book, Glenn Hoddle was still suffering the backlash yesterday as the furor over his World Cup diary grew into a national debate over his credibility. Phone-ins and readers' polls debated the position of the England coach, while several more senior football figures added their names to the long list of detractors.

None of it worried Hoddle enough for him to interrupt his holiday yesterday and call for his resignation will have been dismissed by him as hysterical. As the book proves, Hoddle can be scornful of opinions that differ from his own.

The matter is far from finished, however, with Hoddle facing the first of a number of awkward confrontations tomorrow night when the England squad gathers for a three-day training camp. It will be his first meeting with the players since the World Cup finals and he will surely feel the need to explain his actions after sowing mistrust among the squad with his revelations.

Equally significantly, Hoddle will soon be forced to explain himself to his employers at the Football Association, where senior councillors are making their anger known that this controversy was allowed to erupt.

The FA's international committee, which appoints the England coach, is due to meet in mid-September, when Hoddle is scheduled to give

his World Cup report, and one source yesterday revealed that the coach would be given a "grilling" over the airing of his thoughts. Among the questions they will demand answering is how a book written by one of the FA's own staff — David Davies, the director of public affairs — could prove so self-destructive to the organisation.

Hoddle may be forced to defend himself even before that meeting. Four of the committee are expected to travel with the England party to Sweden for the first European championship qualifying match on September 5 and it seems unlikely that the debate will have died by then. Councillors are understood to be particularly angry that lessons have not been learnt from the television programme *An Impossible Job*,

which brought such ridicule on Graham Taylor, then the England manager. At least the programme only embarrassed Taylor; Hoddle's book has managed to drag others into the storm.

None of the members of Hoddle's squad joined the fray yesterday, showing a restraint that their coach might be advised to remember, although Mel Stein, adviser to Paul Gascoigne, did reveal that the Middlesbrough player had been "very touched and encouraged by the way people have so roundly condemned the England coach, and sympathised with him".

There was a long line of respected football figures queuing up to attack Hoddle, though, after the latest serialisation, which included stinging rebukes for Kevin Keegan and Terry Venables.

The former England coach responded yesterday by claiming: "I did a book on tactics and players of the past and future but I have never, ever gone into detail in a private way on players at all. It is Glenn's business if he wants to go down that road, but I have never written a book like that and I never will."

Roy Hodgson, manager of Blackburn Rovers, defended Chris Sutton, who was attacked in the book and told he will never play for England as long as Hoddle is in charge. "The thing I am sad about is that once again one of my players has been portrayed in

a light which I find unjust," Hodgson said. "It is not right to constantly put forward one side of the story."

"It is certainly not correct to say that Chris Sutton does not want to play for England. The opposite is true. I don't like the fact that he has been portrayed in a bad light and is not in a position to defend himself."

Dave Bassett, manager of Nottingham Forest, dismissed the World Cup diary as "rubbish and unnecessary for an England manager" while Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, believes Hoddle has laid himself open to a disreputable charge. "How they [the FA] can retain their credibility and charge players in the future I don't know," he said.

Hoddle will have the chance to explain his actions on Tuesday when he meets the press, many of whom have also come in for severe criticism in the book. Yesterday, the defence was left to Davies, the co-author. "One of the problems of all the critics, as far as I am aware, is that not one of them has been able up to this point to read the book," he said.

"When they have, they will see that Glenn Hoddle has set out to explain his thinking over a period of nine months. There are things that he is able to say in more than 250 pages that you can never get across in the world of soundbites and tabloid headlines." Maybe he should have thought of that before selling the serialisation to *The Sun* for £250,000.

## Racism gets red-card treatment

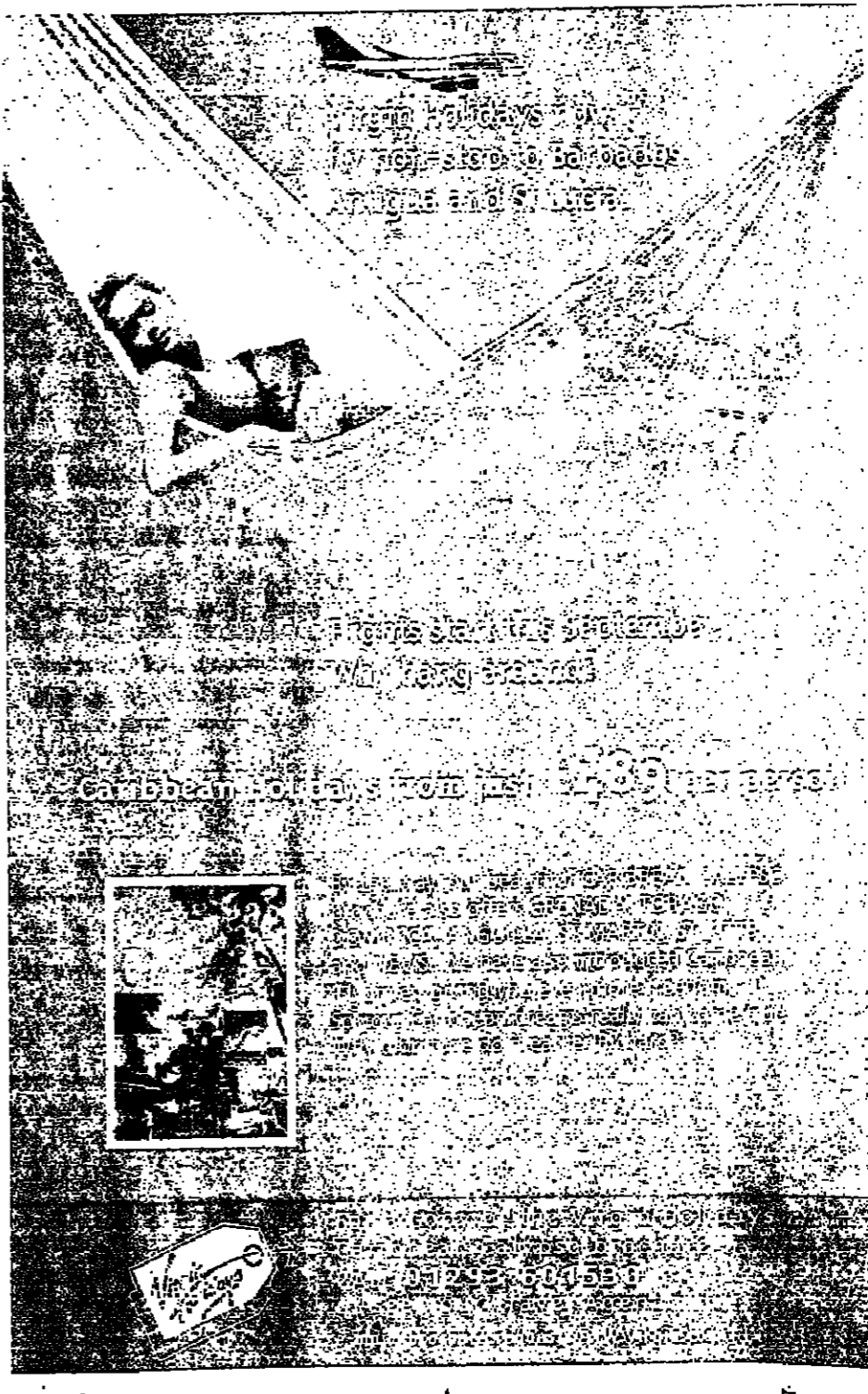
FOR the first time, racist abuse will be a red-card offence when the FA Cup Premier-ship season kicks off this afternoon (John Goodbody writes).

The Football Association announced yesterday that it had amended its misconduct charge, rule 25 (a)(v), specifically to add discrimination for reasons of sex, race, ethnic background, nationality, religion or disability, meaning that a player offering such abuse during a game will automatically be sent off.

In addition, all Premiership clubs will broadcast a message before matches today, stating: "This club is committed to the

national campaign to kick racism out of football. Any spectator who is caught chanting racist abuse is likely to be arrested by police or stewards. The club appreciates your continued support for our policy of zero tolerance of racism at this ground."

Mike O'Brien, the minister with responsibility for racial equality, said yesterday: "Racism is evil and has no place in our society. We must all show racism the red card. These proposals are important because we are in the process of creating not just a society in which racism is unacceptable but a society in which we celebrate the benefit of diversity."





GOLF

# Montgomerie begins climb up leaderboard

COLIN MONTGOMERIE gave plenty of evidence that he is not far from his best as he began his second round in the US PGA Championship yesterday. On another sunlit, crystal-clear morning, Montgomerie, who was four strokes behind Tiger Woods, the leader overnight, looked comfortable on Sahalee's narrow, tree-lined fairways. More to the point, in view of his recent travails with his putter, he looked confident on the greens and soon moved to two under par, two strokes behind Woods.

This was in marked contrast to Lee Westwood, Montgomerie's younger challenger. Westwood had admitted that he was rusty after a two-week holiday in the Algarve and after a four-over-par 74 in his first round, he looked to be in danger of missing the halfway cut when he felt to eight over par after eight holes of his second round.

There were plenty of low points in those eight holes, but perhaps the worst came at the 8th, where his ball landed 8ft up a tree after a bad drive. He was able to reach it, but had to take a penalty drop underneath and after moving the crowd — "I wouldn't stand there if I were you," he told them — he hacked back on to the fairway and ran up a double-bogey six.

Westwood's weakness, the one that he has to guard

against most, is a tendency to bring the clubface slightly off square to the ball, thus sending it out to the right. "It's an old fault," Westwood said. "I know what to do. I need to practice and then I can get it under control."

It is much too early to start putting out the bunting and waving the flags, but if Montgomerie's putting is on its way to returning to its former accuracy, then he has a big thank you to say to Dave Pez. Pez, a bear of a man, is the professional's short game wizard in the way that David Leadbetter is the swing expert. Like many big men, Pez has the touch of a cat burglar around the greens.

In fact, it was Montgomerie's long game that was not quite on song in his opening round, a 70. "It was a satisfactory score, but I didn't play very well," Montgomerie said, citing a sloppy iron that he hooked to the 18th green as being typical of the way that he was playing. He did admit however, that his putting was better.

Somewhat surprisingly, Montgomerie has decided that too often in the past he has not practised as hard as he should and that as a result he has not given 100 per cent in some tournaments. "I was happy today because I knew I had worked very hard in practice," he said, adding that, from now on, he intended to put in more

time on the practice ground. Often in the past, he has done little more than take a few vigorous swishes with his club and make his way to the 1st tee.

For the second day, Montgomerie's golf was tidier and more accurate than that of Ernie Els and Phil Mickelson, his playing partners. He had a chance for a birdie on the 1st hole of his second round and then cleared the pond in front of the 2nd green with a majestic three-wood. The ball ran on to the back of the green and Montgomerie — putting through the shadows, laid it almost stone dead from 70ft.

Though he moved to two under par when he birdied the 4th, holing from 10ft, one of his current weaknesses came to haunt him on the short 5th. If ever there was a hole that called for Montgomerie's famous fade, this was it. The flag was set on the right of a wide green that cried out for a ball to be aimed at the centre and to move gently to the right in flight.

Montgomerie cannot summon up this stroke as he once could. This is a consequence of trying to learn to hook the ball as well as fade it. "I have been fading the ball well in practice, but on the course I do not seem to be able to do it," he admitted. Perhaps this was why his second at the 6th flew right of the green — he had decided to aim at the flag and hit it straight rather than attempt a fade. It took a good chip from thick green-side grass to secure his par there, a good bunker shot on the 7th for his par there and a 25-foot putt to save par on the 8th.

Nick Faldo was heckled by three young men as he practised his putting under the eye of Ben Crenshaw on the putting green after his first round. Crenshaw was with Faldo trying to help the Englishman correct the fault that the American had identified when they played together. After Faldo had complained to police, the three men had their tickets confiscated and were escorted from the course.



Pak drives off the tee at the 4th on her way to making the halfway cut amid the wind, rain and South Korean media at Lytham yesterday

## Burton survives stormy weather

By MEL WEBB

MAD DOGS and Englishmen, so Noel Coward wrote, go out into the midday sun. One had to be predisposed to a measure of barminess, also, to venture forth in the mid-afternoon rain and wind that were thrown at players in the Westabix Women's British Open yesterday. But go they did and, amazingly, some of them managed to play half-decent golf. Even so, it was hard to escape the conclusion that the lucky ones were those who missed the cut.

For the second successive day, the only people who had much fun at Royal Lytham and St Annes were those enterprising merchants who could drum up a decent line in weatherproofs and umbrellas. What fun they had, what profits they made. For the rest,

it was sheer, unalloyed misery.

Long before the day's end, the red numbers on the scoreboard denoting players under par might have been blown across the broad strand of St Annes beach and into the Irish Sea, so conspicuous were they by their absence. At best, they could have been counted on the fingers of one hand — thumbs would not have been needed. A total of 17,700 hardy Lancastrian souls mooched around the course watching people getting wet and wind-swept for cash. They breathed their tough in these parts and they got their money's worth, too, even if the scores bore the superficial appearance of hackers' night at the local municipal.

Professional golfers can never be accused of being fair-weather sportspeople, but it is

safe to assume that the players at this championship have had quite enough of the meteorological nasties, thank you very much.

What the spectators saw was not so much the clinical assembly of potentially winning scores, more a struggle to meet the twin challenges of hitting the ball while at the same time remaining vertical. Again, it was not a European who combined the conditions the best, but an American.

The same American, too.

### SCORES

EARLY LEADING SECOND-ROUND SCORES (28 and 19 best scores): 145: B Burton (US) 71, 74, 146; L Spalding (US) 76, 70, 146; J Moodie (ZS) 72, 74; W Ward (US) 76, 71; S Strudwick (US) 75, 72, 147; B King (US) 71, 77; A Songman (Swi) 75, 73, 148; M-L de Lorenzi (Fr) 79, 72; M Hickey (US) 74; S Gustafson (Swi) 78, 71; T Johnson 72, 77; 150: S Mahon (Ire) 73, 77; J Walker (US) 75, 75, 150; H Katsouris (Grec) 77, 71; A Nicholas 79, 72; H Dobson 80, 71.

Brandy Burton had shared the lead on the first day with Betsy King, her compatriot, and while King subsided somewhat to a round of 77, Burton held her nerve and her powers of endurance to produce a 74 and a two-round total of 145, one over par.

The leading Europeans were Janice Moodie and Suzanne Strudwick, who joined Wendy Ward, another American, on three over. Laura Davies had a slice of good fortune — she missed the cut by a shot.

Burton, a brisk, sturdy and no-nonsense Californian, has handled the conditions so well in the first 36 holes of this championship that she might be expected to be quite happy with more of the same issuing from the heavens' today. Not so. "I'd rather it calmed down a bit," she said. "You feel like

you've been through a war out there." The war will not be over until tomorrow afternoon; meanwhile, she has more than held her own in two battles.

She dropped three shots going out, bogeying the 8th when she came up short with her second shot and missed a 10ft putt for par, then visiting two bunkers on her way to a double-bogey five on the short 9th. Commendably, she held the line on the inward half and even managed to register a birdie on the par-five 11th, where she hit a 40-yard chip to 12ft and holed the putt.

Se Ri Pak, the young South Korean who has attracted a platoon of media types from her country to dog her footsteps at Lytham, easily made the cut on eight over par. With things as they are, she still has a chance.



Westwood struggles to make an impression yesterday

### EQUESTRIANISM

## Britain boosted by second thoughts at Nations Cup

THE Great Britain showjumping team, which had come here demoralised after a run of poor performances, achieved its best result this year when finishing second to the mighty Germany team yesterday after the most competitive Nations Cup of the season.

Helped by two superb rounds from John Whitaker on Virtual Village Heyman, the team, fielding three inexperienced horses, finished on 8.25 points, 0.25 ahead of Ireland in third place and only four points behind the reigning Olympic, world and European champions. "I'm proud of them all — we needed that," Ronnie Massarella, the team manager, said.

The performance has given Britain a tremendous boost for the world championships in October. Suddenly three new horses — all capable of holding their own in this company — have come to the fore.

Michael Whitaker's Virtual Village Silk, making his Nations Cup debut had just four faults in each round. Mark Armstrong's Primna had eight in the first but came back with a brilliant, and crucial, clear round in the second.

Heyman, competing in only his second Nations Cup, produced the faultless performance needed to keep Britain in the hunt in the first round and had 0.25 of a time fault in the second to clinch Britain's second place. Whitaker, who now looks set to ride him in the world championships, was delighted with the horse's bold jumping. "I was a bit worried about the water ditches but he coped with them easily," he said in a reference to fence No 5, a huge double of water ditches.

Although Arno Gego's 12-fence course for the event was big it was not as technical as last year and relied on bold, positive riding. Mistakes,

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN AACHEN, GERMANY

where they occurred, were spread around — the mark of a well-designed course. Thirteen of the 40 riders were faultless over the first round — and a further four had only time faults. At the halfway stage Britain, helped by superb clear rounds from Billington and John Whitaker, lay in joint-third place on four faults. Brazil, seeking their first Nations Cup win for a decade, and Holland, the winners last year, were in first and second place.

Ireland, with clear rounds from Peter Charles, on Travada, T'Paine, and Trevor Coyle, on Cruising, squeezed through on 4.25 faults. Surprisingly, France, the leaders in the Nations Cup series after four wins this season, failed to qualify.

In the second round the picture changed dramatically. Switzerland, Holland and Brazil all dropped out of contention. Germany, with clear rounds from Otto Becker on Cera and Markus Beerbaum on Lady Weingard, moved into the lead.

But 8.75 faults from their world champion, Franke Sloothaak, put the pressure on their fourth rider, Lars Nieberg, on For Pleasure, who had to go clear for the team to win outright.



John Whitaker: inspired

## Davidson builds slender lead

BRUCE DAVIDSON, the United States Olympic veteran, on Squelch, took a slender one penalty dressage lead over Tina Gilford and State Diplomat in the advanced division of the Doubleprint British Open Horse Trials championships at Gatcombe Park yesterday.

With four horses doing their dressage in the first section, Davidson was kept busy, but no more so than Gilford who had three tests on State Diplomat, O'Leary and The Gangster before two more this morning.

This is because General Jock, her contender for the world equestrian games in Rome on September 30, has

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

his dressage today and is the only one doing the FEI international test that caused so much consternation last year at Badminton.

State Diplomat, who won the French three-day event at Le Lion d'Angers in 1996, was sidelined for a year after knocking his tendon and returned to win the British Equestrian Insurance Brokers Final at the Longest one-day trials in June.

He went on to the Bramham three-day event but finished in 21st position through heavy time penalties on the steeplechase course. Lucy Thompson, Ireland's

former European champion, on Welton Romance, went into third place, ahead of Australian Andrew Hoy, winner of the British Open at Gatcombe last year on Swizze In. Thompson has two contenders for Rome and although it was Romance, produced by Ginny Elliot who won in 1995. Thompson thinks she will take stable companion Welton Molecule to Italy and ride Romance at Burghley.

Owen Moore, also long-listed for Rome, leads the intermediate championship dressage with Lord Killinghurst and is pursued by Masaru Fuse, of Japan, on Voyou Du Roc.

### SPORT IN BRIEF

#### Race steers clear of tour police

■ **CYCLING:** Organisers of the Tour de France have dropped plans for the race to cross the border into France, avoiding any possibility of the police anti-doping raids that occurred during the Tour de France. "Since it is impossible to predict how [French] judges will behave, we cannot go," Alberto Gadea, the race director, said yesterday.

The thirteenth leg of the tour was to have taken 198 cyclists from 22 teams across the border into France and through several mountain passes before returning to Sabinaigo. All four Spanish teams — Banesto, ONCE, Kelme and Vitali Clo — dropped out of the Tour de France in protest at the police action, but Tour of Spain officials insisted they were not acting out of spite.

■ **RUGBY UNION:** Ben Tane, who has recovered from a knee injury, reclaims his place from Jason Little.

The All Blacks, meanwhile, field a much-changed side against South Africa at Kings Park today. Royce Willis, 22, the Waikato lock, is among the newcomers. He will make his international debut in place of Ian Jones, while Carl Hogg will pack down at loosehead prop instead of Craig Dowd.

■ **SQUASH:** England defeated Spain comprehensively to reach the semi-finals of the world junior men's team championship in Princeton, in the United States. Adrian Grant, the only survivor from England's unexpected win in the last junior team championship in Cairo in 1996, led the line with a win over Ivan Flores.

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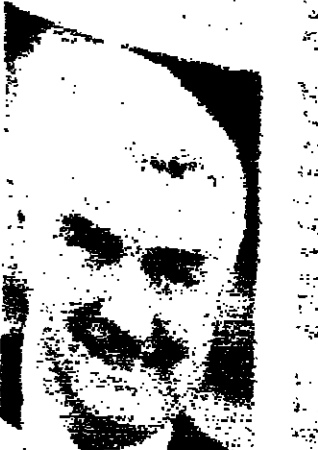
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# Old menu fails to whet the appetite

I have got the terrible hump with being back, so be warned. Are other columnists bitching about the season being here? I suppose they must be. If they're not, then they've lost all sense of reality or have no homes to go to.

Every supporter, every acquaintance, every cab driver and even the odd footballer I'm on speaking terms with have all greeted the infernal bugle blast calling us all to the 1998-99 start-line as though it were the shrill jangle of the Monday morning alarm clock. Haven't we only just gone to bed? Aren't we all full up to the eyeballs with the slim personalities and slimmer possibilities that are already being rifled in front of us like coloured beads before The Tribe Who Owned Manhattan?

It's the awful crack-house helplessness that so revolts what's left of our free will. There is absolutely no chance we won't soon be suckered in and suckered in deeply. Battle-wearied GIs ambulating about Saigon in '68 had more chance of resisting temptation. "Pest! Hey, Johnny. You got few bucks? I give you loooooommmmmg time, Johnny!" I just want a few more days on the outside, that's all.

Last season's jottings here began and ended with sincere appeals for inventive ways with which we can delay or in some way ginger up these disconnected, ghost-town months at the campaign's dawn, with by far the most popular choice being the playing of the initial two months' fixtures behind closed doors. All results are kept secret and when, after a couple of



of clubs who gained promotions last year will be able to raise even a flicker of curiosity about the desperate grind of games going through the motions nationwide. For the rest of us, it's like a stretch version of doing the rounds of relatives at Christmas.

Yet perhaps the biggest casualty of the incredible Shrinking Closed Season is the FA Carling Premiership title. Talk about painting the Forth Bridge. Arsenal have barely had time to put the crown on their head before it has been snatched back, set on its stanchion and locked away in the safe covered with question marks again. The term "Premier League champions" is starting to carry about as much weight as the phrase "No 1 single". Which might be why United and Arsenal are seeking to splinter away from the rest in search of a less tinpot title.

This, by the way, is futile. There can and will never be a once-and-for-all Soccer Super League. There are too many claimants wanting to wet their beak, and what football will fragment into will be the kind of chaos with which boxing chose to destroy itself, with AC Milan holding the WBC title, Real Madrid claiming the WBO crown and so on and so forth all the way down to Chelsea as some sort of IBF European lightweight cruiser kings.

Anyway, here we go again: Arsenal, you stand up the top; Charlton, you go to the bottom — and everybody else mill about for around ten months, will you? If you look interested, we'll try and act surprised. After all... we got loooooommmmg time together buddy...

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How Gazza, a latter-day Mozart, might have pleaded with Hodde after being told of his omission from the World Cup finals

# Hodde must change his tune

I will be absolutely honest with you and tell you I haven't taken in a solitary football development since Brazil turned in the most confused Parisian performance since the stage show of 'Allo 'Allo folded after one night at La Pigalle. (I do understand that Edmundo has confirmed Ronaldo was financially obliged to turn out that night whether he weakened the side or not. So where does sponsorship end and bribery begin?)

I've no idea what transfers have gone on, who's playing who this afternoon, or even what Glenn Hodde has actually said in his vulgar and grasping book detailing how his England team heroically played four matches and lost half of them in France. The reaction to his bean-spilling has been unavoidable, though, and in conversation over a cold drink I am once again pressed as to whether I have any evidence that he actually may be certifiably mad.

Personally, I do think he is mad although even I am surprised he has gone so very public with the scheming shifty shit side of his nature. Surely no body will feel at ease talking to this devious snitch and even those asked by garrulous Glenn for directions to local stations must first be com-

elled to pat the man down lest he be "wearing a wire" on them.

Traditional soccer safe houses like the gent's toilets at PFA dinners will now be chambers fraught with fear lest the England manager be lurking in stall No 1 while two pros swap a juicy story at the urinal. Players will soon be forced to exchange grievances and title-tattle from the sides of their mouths in defensive walls or on the privacy of Channel 5.

That said, at least his cash-for-secrets policy means that we have one less fabulous soccer diary book on the shelves. While it may be ill-written and contain large childish stretches, it does at least make a change to have our sense of decency outraged rather than our intelligence insulted.

Yes, if asked, I shall recommend it on the dust-jacket. As to whether I will go and watch the film adaptation of the work I am less enthusiastic. Football films never work and Glenn's alleged insistence on playing himself can only lead to some toe-curling amateurism. Apparently Michael Owen wanted to play himself, too, but Glenn has decided he's not ready yet.

Besides, I have a sneaking suspicion many of you will have already seen a large part of the screenplay before when falling

under the spell of Milos Foreman's 1984 masterpiece, *Amadeus*.

For those of you who have yet to indulge in this magnificent film it opens with the attempted suicide in a lunatic asylum of a man (Jacommo Saliere), who, in his day, was considered the last word in crowd-pleasing entertainment. He was a virtuoso who enjoyed great success — firstly as a performer and later as a powerful broker within his profession — and his clever social manoeuvring and dependable, if slight, track record led him to the highest position in the land.

He was someone who it seemed was destined to be remembered as the benchmark of his trade in his own lifetime: outwardly humble and respectable, privately a cunning, plotting rotpot.

And then along came Mozart, a whirlwind whose breathtaking gifts and energies were only matched by his flouting of convention and wild lifestyle. He who could both beguile and repulse within the same audience. He who was adored by the public but might spit in the eye of accepted establishment. The world had a new standard.

As the aghast and bitter Saliere said, watching Mozart entertain a

bar room with fart jokes and boozey travesties of his own talents: "And as I watched this ape, this mockery, this clown who was able to perform such wonders, I knew God was laughing at me. It was then I vowed to bring Mozart down, to block him, to make it my life's work destroying this thing into which God had put everything I ever wanted to be."

It is the successful execution of this plan — chiefly through his influence at court — that eventually drives Saliere to the madhouse, tormented that his own greedy, envious machinations have killed the greatest performer of his time. There is even a scene where lamps are overturned and smashed.

There is, of course, absolutely no actual evidence that Glenn Hodde is either insane or even particularly tormented just now. But as the royalty cheques from his naked betrayals start rolling in we should be constantly aware of the slightest roll of the eye, twitch of the mouth, howl at the moon. History is there to be learnt from. We do not want any tragedies resulting from a guilt that, if caught in time and treated by modern techniques, even now might be channelled into something positive. Sending the England boss a list of needy charities might be a start. Let the healing begin.

Do you realise how difficult it is to find a pedometer these days? Well it is, but fortunately I am saved when an old lady in a seaside shop tells me most local libraries keep a few that they are happy to loan out on security of a small deposit. I need a pedometer because of the necessity to confront an inner demon that insists that for the first time in my life I may live closer to Charlton Athletic than Millwall.

The issue has a happy outcome as I find I live exactly eight paces closer to the New Dean than "Death" Valley. All that night, however, I find myself brooding about poor old Charlton. The streets around the ground are shuttered with many turnings completely abandoned. The sky there seems bruised and ominous and the awful pall of what is about to befall this splendid old club hangs heavily around the turnstiles. For a moment I thought I saw an actual vulture hovering above the players' entrance but

Swifly into Valley of death

this merely turns out to be a discarded chip wrapper blowing in the wind.

That they will not win so much as a goal kick is taken as read but many authorities are now fearing that a new league position will have to be introduced, a kind of super bottom, wherein the Premiership appears to end with the sixteenth side and interested parties must then have to hunt for Charlton around the sports pages like a humiliating game of "Where's Wally?" I hope not.

Despite Charlton being our closest geographical rivals, nobody I know has bore them any malice, unlike Crystal Palace a few streets on. Charlton has

always been a comfortable old corner shop of a club, happy to welcome in those few old mums and bobble-hatted children who, quite understandably, found the pace and atmosphere of life with the Lions a little too racy for their blood. However, as we daily lament, when a corner shop takes on the hypermarkets the outcome is swift and merciless.

The site of The Valley stands on one of the oldest roads into London. It was here during the Middle Ages that the unfortunate bodies of those thrill-seekers who came to the big city and were led astray were hung in gibbets till they rotted. A stark warning to all those who similarly sought to play for the highest of stakes.

On their way to the Premiership, Charlton can't have failed to notice hanging high on FA Hill the tattered remnants of, among others, Barnsley, Oldham Athletic and Crystal Palace twisting slowly, slowly in the wind. And yet still they come...

# There but for the grace of a rattle go Millwall

I moved house just after the World Cup and disturbed the contents of our cellar, much of which had laid untouched for more than a thousand years. A bitter-sweet moment of reflection comes when I discover the large and, yes, potentially dangerous rattle that I made over a six-month span in third-year woodwork. Perhaps the world's worst artisan, this solid and thunderous appliance remains my one perfect fluke of creation. Yet it has never seen the inside of a football ground.

Not because the old-time rattle was soon sneered at as corny, then snuffed out for being the bludgeon in favour of clothing it always was, but because I chose to push my luck and decorate it.

Our woodwork teacher was a stout and ruddy-faced man called Mr Farr who lost all sensation in

his left hand after putting a chisel through the fleshy part of his palm below the thumb. Mr Farr would use this story to underline the importance of Total Diligence When At The Bench and could, with minimal encouragement, be persuaded to place his "dead" hand firmly around a red-hot poker until smoke obscured his face. Anyway, I asked Mr Farr whether, rather than simply paint my triumph, it would be possible for me to bear the name of my team into the living wood. He didn't advise it. I didn't believe him. So on getting the thing home, I locked myself in my bedroom and, using a bunsen burner and an unraveled wire coat-hanger, went into the searing business.

The first word I wrote was, rather unsurprisingly, Millwall, and apart from a certain spideryness to the lettering and an

unfortunate closeness of the middle two "Ls", I looked upon my efforts as pretty much being one in the eye for the Farr school of thought. This was along the top of the rattle. Keen to run home my vindicated sense of vision the only other canvas available to me now was on the "closed" side of the rattle, an area about nine inches by four. After a fairly long mental trawl to unearth the *mot juste* I decided to etch out the rallying slogan: "UP THE LIONS!" Emboldened by my initial success, I perhaps took less time and care than I should have on a whole sentence and before the exclamation mark was cool left off the bed and ran down to show my brother — a superb woodworker — that his younger sibling might just be snapping at his heels in the creative stakes. Taking it from me he turned it this way and that and said: "Hmmm. Well made, I'll give you that. What's 'UP THE LIONS!' meant?"

"UP THE LIONS!" It's written on the side here. Up-the-joins... oh! Is it supposed to say Up The Lions or something?"

Snatching it back from him, I fled upstairs screaming meaningless accusations and weeping hot tears of rage and humiliation. I threw the thing under the bed

knowing that no matter how beautifully I'd crafted the cog, no matter how smartly the slot boards snapped back and forth, no matter how superbly fashioned the gently swelling handle had turned out, my masterpiece must now remain hidden to the world.

And so it was as I took it from a cardboard box a last week and wistfully gave it a half turn that I proudly noted how crisply it's "clack-clack-clack" still rang out thirty years on. No doubt about it, a real bear. Superbly crafted, raring to go but with its guns tragically spiked in a moment of pubescent hubris. Up the Loins indeed.

Surely it is not too fanciful to suggest that, but for the simple transposing of two vowels, the recent fortunes of one side down in South London might have been entirely different.

'I hoard, therefore I am' is such a fine philosophy

MOVING STORY TWO: At the risk of making collectors scream and leap in the river, I must tell you that during my recent clear-out whilst moving, I threw away an entire suitcase full of old football programmes without so much as looking at what they might yield. I knew if I did they would put the handbrake on the task in hand and simply sit in the cellar of the new place.

Seeking to gain a few points from my wife for my unsentimental possession-editing, I was instead reminded that I am still hoarding tons of less relevant rubbish, including over 200 videos of various *Match Of The Days*, a rattle with "UP THE LIONS!" on it (previously discussed), 13 leather balls in various stages of ruin, 8 1/2 pairs of Puma

boots and several squares of turf representing matches that I have long since forgotten the relevance of.

It was following this inventory that I said the following: "A hoarder? Of course I'm a hoarder. Mankind is a hoarder. I mean, what are the planet's art galleries and media archives if not pure damning evidence of the human race's chronic inability to throw anything away? I promise you it came out just like that. Now here's the thing. Is it from an old James Cagney movie or something or did I really make it up on the spot? I think it's rather good and intend to whip it out often so long as I'm not challenged by some oik who points out he heard it first at a Carl Sagan lecture. I do hope not. By the way — hands off."

## RUGBY UNION: WHEELS STOP TURNING ON CONCEPT OF BRITISH LEAGUE

### Baister fails to convert the Welsh

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) reluctantly conceded defeat yesterday in its attempts to launch a cross-border British league this season. Talks between Twickenham and the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) failed to break the deadlock and "logistical and legal difficulties" have forced the project to be shelved, though possibly resurrected next year.

In telephone talks yesterday with Sir Tasker Watkins, the WRU president, Brian Baister, the RFU chairman, was unable to persuade the Welsh to drop their preconditions and objections. The knock-on effect is that English clubs will not participate this season in the European Cup, a competition that could now find itself without a broadcaster and sponsor as both BSkyB and Heineken can see little value in a tournament without England.

Baister said: "The RFU shares the frustration of clubs, unions, players and supporters that a cross-border competition cannot be put in place for this season. An earlier

submission of the initiative would have been hugely beneficial to all parties to ensure that the structure was right for all concerned. However, what has come out is a common desire to examine ways of building an exciting future for northern-hemisphere rugby."

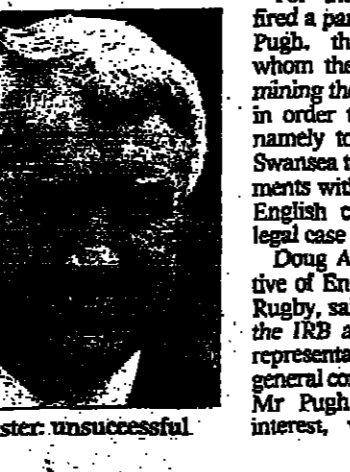
Immediately, the RFU instructed the clubs to publish its Allied Dunbar Premiership fixture list. This in itself could open up another minefield if

the 14 first division clubs insist on honouring a signed legal agreement to play Cardiff and Swansea on a regular friendly basis next season should those clubs be expelled from the WRU on Monday.

The RFU will not sanction such proposals, which counter the spirit of the Mayfair Agreement to do so would jeopardise England's membership of the International Rugby Board (IRB).

For their part, the clubs fired a paring shot at Vernon Pugh, the IRB chairman, whom they accuse of undermining the league discussions in order to settle old scores, namely to force Cardiff and Swansea to sign loyalty agreements with the WRU and the English clubs to drop their legal case against the IRB.

Doug Ash, the chief executive of English First Division Rugby, said: "As chairman of the IRB and also a national representative member of the ERU, Mr Pugh has a conflict of interest, which we believe



Baister unsuccessful

## RUGBY LEAGUE: HUGHES THROWS SURPRISE NAME INTO HAT FOR COACHING ROLE

### St Helens lifted by move for Hanley

RATHER than old-fashioned title and relegation issues as the season reaches its climax, interest will be concentrated in mid-table in the JJB Super League tomorrow when the scramble for play-off places continues.

Wigan Warriors, Leeds Rhinos and Halifax Blue Sox have guaranteed their places in the top-five series and one of St Helens and Bradford Bulls, in fourth and fifth places, can do themselves a big favour by winning their encounter at Knowsley Road.

Although three points behind them, Sheffield Eagles remain in contention, but victory at Wigan seems paramount to their hopes of sneaking into the play-offs at the end of next month.

St Helens are not ruling out the possibility of Elery Hanley becoming their coach next season after Eric Hughes, the director of rugby, met the former Great Britain captain and coach at a service station on the M62.

Hanley is in England on personal business before moving back to Australia,

where he has taken up citizenship. "With a man of Elery's standing, if he was available, he would have to come into consideration," Hughes said.

The search by Hughes is due to take him to Australia, where he may offer the job to Malcolm Reilly, Hanley's predecessor as the national team coach, whose stint at Newcastle Knights ends next month. "People are applying on a daily basis. We don't feel there's a rush, but we can't drag our feet," Hughes said.

The St Helens board feels so strongly about allegations that John Kear, the Sheffield coach, rejected their initial offer to succeed Shaun McRae next year because directors wanted an input into team selection that they have printed an official denial, which will be handed out at the game tomorrow.

Since McRae was informed that his contract was not being renewed, St Helens have beaten Huddersfield Giants and Warrington Wolves, while following their safety cap and

internal disciplinary problems at a stroke by offloading Bobbie Goulding on a free transfer to Huddersfield. The Britain scrum half will be on the bench against Salford.

Sean Long demonstrated at Warrington last week that Goulding's erratic contribution over the past year will not be missed. There were stories of champagne corks popping at the news of his departure.

Bradford, too, have lurched from crisis to crisis this season, their championship last year all but a memory as they cling to fifth place. "There were signs in the Hull game last week that we looked back to something like our best, but we saw those signs against Huddersfield and Leeds and then it went on vacation," Matthew Elliott, the Bulls coach, said.

Sheffield, who beat Wigan 17-8 in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup in May and lost 36-6 to them a week later, are unchanged from their defeat of Huddersfield for the return league visit to Central Park.

Wigan, on a ten-match winning streak, have a new second-row pairing in Lee Gilmour and Mick Cassidy, with Denis Betts out for at least a month with knee-ligament damage and Simon Houghton on the bench.

Halifax's one real blot on their season was a defeat at Warrington and they will look to correct it at the New Shay. Jamie Bloom stays at full back in place of Damian Gibson, who has signed a new two-year deal but failed to recover from a rib injury. Will Cowell, the Warrington academy team full back, is the latest teenager on standby to assist his club's injury dilemma.

Dissatisfied members have tabled a no-confidence motion in Mike Morrissey, chairman of the British Amateur Rugby League Association (Barla), and Stuart Sheard, the vice-chairman, at a special general meeting tomorrow.

It follows the controversial dismissal of Maurice Oldroyd, the long-serving chief executive, for allegedly undermining the authority of leading Barla officials.



FOOTBALL

# Wenger confident as Arsenal begin their title defence

By Oliver Holt, Football Correspondent

IN THE lair of the champions, Arsène Wenger felt it necessary to try to soothe the fever that is burning with the start of another new season. The excitement and hyperbole had reached its height yesterday morning with a suggestion that Ronaldo might be on his way to Arsenal.

"Ronaldo?" Wenger smiled. "It is impossible. We would have to sell the North Stand, the South Stand, the West Stand and the East Stand for him."

Even Wenger, though, the master of understatement and calm, could not hide his excitement at the prospect of beginning his club's defence of the FA Carling Premiership title that they won so convincingly last season. He wrote off the FA Charity Shield victory over Manchester United as a remnant of the previous campaign. For him, the real thing starts against Nottingham Forest at Highbury on Monday.

For the majority, it will begin today and tomorrow. Michael Owen will try to start where he left off in St-Etienne and Marcel Desailly and Frank Leboeuf will have to try to bury the memories of the World Cup final deep in their memories as they run out for Chelsea and prepare to tackle Coventry City.

Up in Blackburn, Kevin Davies will take the burden of being the most expensive transfer of the summer on his broad shoulders as he takes on another hero of the World Cup, Igor Stimac, the Derby County sweeper. On Teesside, Paul Gascoigne will try to shake off an injury so he can begin the process of proving Glenn Hoddle wrong. At Old Trafford, David Beckham will have to endure his first dose of Premiership catcalls from Leicester supporters.

Yet whatever the rest have spent, whoever they boast in their line-up, however lavishly they have invested the mil-

lions that the game now will begin today and tomorrow. Michael Owen will try to start where he left off in St-Etienne and Marcel Desailly and Frank Leboeuf will have to try to bury the memories of the World Cup final deep in their memories as they run out for Chelsea and prepare to tackle Coventry City.

"Just because we won the Premiership last season," Wenger said, "does not mean we will do it again. It will be a different championship, but we are in the same position psychologically and we can do it if we give our best consistently over the course of the season."

"But it will be tough. Look at Chelsea. They are a team that I fear will be a real challenge. They were already close, but they have made the most impressive buys in the summer. With Desailly, Brian Laudrup, Ferrer and Casiraghi, they will be very strong."

"Each year, I tip Liverpool too and one year I am scared that it could come true. There is such potential there. The players are growing and growing and they will have Michael Owen from the start. The frustration from last year will be a motivating factor for them, too."

"Of course, there is Manchester United and Newcastle may surprise people because they have an offensive power that is much greater than before."

It was significant, though, that Wenger identified the greatest threat to his team's hegemony as a lack of cover in midfield and attack. He is particularly concerned that any injury to Nicolas Anelka — a young French forward who he said could grow into a better all-round player than even Ronaldo — would leave Arsenal dangerously exposed in attack.

That problem is all the greater because of the peculiar logistical problem that Dennis Bergkamp will present this season. With Arsenal involved in a minimum of three away games in the European Cup Champions' League and Bergkamp sticking to his refusal to fly to any of them, a tie in eastern Europe would force Wenger to choose between playing him in the Premiership or in Europe.

On trifles like that, titles can be won and lost. "The Premiership is still my priority," Wenger said. "Put it this way, if we are playing in Kiev and Dennis has got to get there on a bike, he will be staying at home."

# Everton follow tartan path

Kevin McCarra on how a winning mentality has been brought to a struggling club

IN the corner of Walter Smith's office there is a rack of clothes, the sign of a life in transit. Everton have chosen him as manager in the hope that he can drap them in the same sort of conviction that clung to Rangers during his 11 years at Ibrox. If it were not for the fact that Smith's tastes are stylishly dapper, one might have said that the Goodison club is to be clad in tartan.

John Spencer, Duncan Ferguson, John Collins and Alex Cleland should all feature in the team. "Four Scots. That's as many as I had in the Rangers side last season," Smith mused with a mischievous accuracy. With Archie Knox as his assistant, it is entirely apt that the Everton jersey should resemble the blue of the saltire. Goodison will be one of the few places in English football where it is fashionable to be a Scot.

Don Hutchison, the mid-field player, is eager to remind everyone of his Scottish blood as he lays claim to a place in the Caledonian five-a-side team that is mooted for training matches. Such a cluster of men from north of the border feels like an anachronism, redolent as it is of the 1960s and 1970s when Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur, Leeds United and others drew much of their strength from Scots.



Collins, a goalscorer at the World Cup finals, hopes to find more joy with Everton

"We used to like to see one of our own dominating in English football," Collins said, "because it was as if he was putting one over on the English." Everton, however, have no intention of evoking a bygone era. Collins, in fact, is the only member of the Scottish cadre at Everton to have been bought by Smith, who signed him from AS Monaco for £2.5 million after he featured in the World Cup finals in France.

It may be the experiences of the group, rather than their place of origin, that make them valuable. Ferguson, Spencer and Cleland all played under Smith at Ibrox. Although Collins was coached by Smith while in the Scottish youth team, the prominent years of his career have been spent at Celtic and Monaco. These men were accustomed to the expectation of victory each weekend.

Nobody at Everton has made that sort of assumption for many years and although the club did not plummet to relegation in May the season ended with it dangling over the abyss. Hence the replacement of Howard Kendall by Smith. Newcomers such as

Collins ought to add to Everton's morale even though they themselves must find a way to accept that they cannot win as regularly as they once did.

"Mentally, it is going to be tough for me," Collins said, "because I am not used to being beaten. To be realistic, that is more likely to happen with Everton and it will not be easy to accept. Because we have won trophies elsewhere, though, some of us have a degree of self-belief and I hope that can be contagious in the squad."

Smith and Collins have come to a club that has been chastened by several crises. "I do not think I can be accused of taking the easy option when

accepting the job," the droll manager said. Apart from making signings that include Olivier Dacourt, from Strasbourg, and Marco Materazzi, from Perugia, Smith has tried to raise the spirits of those already on the staff.

The loss of a single match can leave Rangers aghast, but Smith suspects that his reactions will have to be modified slightly at Goodison to ensure that each setback is not magnified into a trauma. His experiences in the early part of his coaching career, at Dundee United, will be an important resource since he saw there how intelligent management can offset disadvantages.

There is nothing grandiose

about his plans for Everton and he is intent on improving the general standard of the squad rather than making glamorous purchases. "We have to do it in stages," he said, "and get to a respectable position before we can think of bringing some of the really big names here." Time, too, will be essential to let fine young players, such as Michael Ball, the left-sided defender, mature.

It is hard to ask for patience from supporters who have already suffered so much. At Rangers, Smith was irked that each achievement was taken for granted by the public. That, at least, is one problem he need not worry about any more.

# Signings display Bruce's new skills

By Russell Kempson

STEVE BRUCE, the Sheffield United player-manager, has not been long in the job — one league and one cup game, to be precise — but he is already discovering that the power of persuasion is as important a weapon as any in his armoury. Yesterday, on the eve of their Nationwide League first division game against West Bromwich Albion, he captured the signature of Wayne Quinn, the club's promising left wing back.

Quinn, 21, has been the subject of speculation during the summer, having been linked to many prospective suitors from the FA Carling Premiership, but yesterday he agreed a new four-year deal to stay at Bramall Lane. David Holdsworth, the club captain, did the same earlier in the week.

"I'm obviously delighted that Wayne has committed himself to me and the club," Bruce said. "United will keep the same side that have already defeated Swindon Town, in the league, and Darlington this season."

Garth Hall, the Swindon defender, will renew acquaintances when Sunderland, his former club, visit the County

Ground today. "It will be strange to play against my old team-mates," he said. "I've no regrets about leaving Sunderland and I feel confident we can do something here."

Hall faces a late fitness test on a leg injury while Chris Hay, the striker, is struggling with a groin strain. Daniele Dichio, the Sunderland forward, will revert to the substitutes' bench now that Niall Quinn has recovered from a back problem.

Birmingham City, who play Crystal Palace at St Andrews tomorrow, will check on the fitness of Paul Furlong, their £1.5 million striker, who is attempting to shake off a hamstring strain.

Palace have completed the double signing of Sun Jihai and Fan Zhiyi, from China, although neither player will be available until next week at the earliest. They still require work permits and international clearance.

In the third division, Halifax Town, the Nationwide newcomers, will be presented with a commemorative silver sash to mark their entry into professional football before the game against Brentford — their first home league match for five years.



# Keane and Giggs provide the key

By Stephen Wood

MANCHESTER United may have misfired during the FA Charity Shield against Arsenal last week, but Alex Ferguson, their manager, is showing no signs of having dwindling faith in his squad. While the championship slipped through their grasp last season, salvation, beginning with the visit of Leicester City to Old Trafford today, lies not with new faces as much as with familiar ones.

The return of Roy Keane in the heart of midfield, coupled with an injury-free season from Ryan Giggs, should give United the strength and cutting edge that they missed last term. "I honestly believe if we had had those two, we would have been all right," Ferguson said. "Roy is so important because of his leadership and attitude on the pitch. He will inspire the rest of them, either by example or by mouthing off at them. He's like Bryan Robson in that sense, although I don't think Roy will suffer from injuries like Robbo did. Robbo couldn't see danger. Roy knows when to go in and when to hold back."

"Roy also underplays his skill level. He has a nice habit of passing to someone in a red

jersey, which, in the heat of battle, is such a precious ability. Ryan just gets better and better. If he can stay free of injuries, he could become the key player for us this season."

Ferguson also wants confirmation of his hunch that Jaap Stam and Ronnie Johnsen can provide the stability at the centre of defence, something never truly replaced since the break up of the Steve Bruce-Gary Pallister partnership. "We need a good relationship at the back based on communication and the longer they play together, the more consistent they will be," he said. "That is a vital area."

Frederick Dehu, a target for Roy Evans and Gerard Houllier, the joint-managers of Liverpool, rejected their advances last night, saying that he needed a "more interesting challenge". Liverpool had agreed a £4 million transfer fee with Lens for the French central defender, but he said: "A move to Liverpool does not fit in with my ambitions at the moment. When a move comes along, I would like to go to Italy or Spain, rather than north of Lens. I need a more interesting challenge."

Manchester United and Newcastle may surprise people because they have an offensive power that is much greater than before."

It was significant, though, that Wenger identified the greatest threat to his team's hegemony as a lack of cover in midfield and attack. He is particularly concerned that any injury to Nicolas Anelka — a young French forward who he said could grow into a better all-round player than even Ronaldo — would leave Arsenal dangerously exposed in attack.

That problem is all the greater because of the peculiar logistical problem that Dennis Bergkamp will present this season. With Arsenal involved in a minimum of three away games in the European Cup Champions' League and Bergkamp sticking to his refusal to fly to any of them, a tie in eastern Europe would force Wenger to choose between playing him in the Premiership or in Europe.

On trifles like that, titles can be won and lost. "The Premiership is still my priority," Wenger said. "Put it this way, if we are playing in Kiev and Dennis has got to get there on a bike, he will be staying at home."

# Mendonca seeks survival course

As Clive Mendonca walked off the pitch at Wembley three months ago, life could not have been sweeter. Charlton Athletic had beaten Sunderland 7-0 in a penalty shoot-out after a pulsating 4-4 draw in the Nationwide League first division play-off final, and he had scored a hat-trick. A family holiday beckoned and so did the FA Carling Premiership.

The abuse started as he made his way towards the dressing-rooms, past the massed ranks of the Sunderland supporters, and it continued until he had disappeared down the tunnel. "A lot of fans were shouting at me, telling me I wouldn't be welcome back any more," he said. "One even said that he would cut my throat."

It was a disturbing climax to a joyous afternoon, further evidence of the intensity that afflicts modern-day football followers and the emotional irrationality of defeat. Mendonca, born in Islington but brought up in Sunderland, had incurred the wrath of Wearside, no matter that the Roker Roar, a childhood memory, still rung in his ears.

"It upset me a bit but it was just a small minority of mindless idiots," he said. "Sunderland supporters are brilliant." He has since gone home, to visit his many relatives, and returned unscathed. The bite of that afternoon was no more than a vapour, the vanquished.

This afternoon, Mendonca, 29, is likely to receive a similar reaction when he steps out against Newcastle United at St James' Park. His background is now well chronicled, making him an easy target in alien areas of the North East, and the fixture computer could not have dealt him a more harsh opening to the season.

"I couldn't believe it when I

# Russell Kempson on the big-time bow of Charlton's Wembley hero

heard who we'd got," he said. "I suppose the only way Sunderland fans are going to forgive me now is if I score against Newcastle. I'm from Sunderland, I'm a fan and I'm not too pleased if Newcastle supporters are happy that Sunderland have missed promotion."

"I sat down to watch the Wembley video only a few weeks ago and I enjoyed it. It was a staggering game. Playing in it was unbelievable, the atmosphere was something totally new, and I felt really sorry for Michael Gray when he missed his penalty."

"I was really pleased with

the hat-trick, it was the stuff of schoolboy dreams, but that's all in the past now and we've got a big challenge ahead of us. We've all got a positive attitude and while we know it will be difficult playing against world-class players, we've got a great spirit here. If we stay up, it will be a successful season."

Reality has already kicked in, there are no delusions of grandeur. Success, for the promoted small fry, is measured by avoiding relegation. Yet Mendonca, after a modest career with Sheffield United, twice Doncaster Rovers, Rotherham United and Grimsby Town, will savour every moment.

"I've scored 20 goals in the first division for the past three seasons so I've proved myself at that level," he said. "If I get chances, I always think I'll score, whichever division I'm playing in. Once I'd moved to Charlton, I still believed, even at my age, that I could make the Premiership. Hopefully, I'll do myself justice, and I do feel I've earned the right to play there."

Two years ago, he had little but the seraphic to contemplate. A mystery back ailment kept him out for 18 months and it was only after a series of tests and scans, visits to specialists, an appointment with a chiropractor and, ultimately, a course of tablets for the nerve-related spinal problem that his future was positively resolved. Charlton paid a club record £700,000 for him last summer and his 28-goal return concluded an unlikely tale for player and club.

It is a happy Valley now. Expectation is high, if tinged with trepidation, and the newly expanded superstore took £60,000 in shirt sales in its opening three days. Mendonca's No 10 sold out in 48 hours.



Mendonca is eager to taste life in the Premiership

# Miller's changes bring renewed hope to Aberdeen

By Kevin McCarra

WHEN funds are in short supply, goods have to be refurbished rather than replaced. So it is with football teams. Aberdeen are renowned as a well-run club, but Alex Miller still does not have the sort of budget that allows an abundance of signings. He has had to settle for tinkering with the squad he inherited when taking over in November of last year.

The training has been hard, with the players put through three sessions a day in the close season, and, thanks to some tactical realignment, the shape of the team has also been forced to develop. The alterations to personnel are few, with just Craig Hignett and Mark Perry, from Middlesbrough and Dundee United respectively, signed under freedom of contract.

All the same, there is tentative hope among supporters that the process of change has begun. On the opening day of the season, Aberdeen beat Dundee 2-0 at Dens Park. Demands of a different order will be made when Celtic come to Pittodrie today. The Glasgow club has not lost to Aberdeen since April 1995, despite the fact that the teams have subsequently met a dozen times in the League.

One factor is new. Celtic, for the first time since 1988, are League champions and, as such, their status as quarry has grown. In their years of ascendancy, Rangers learned how their own fame could hone their ambition of other clubs. Aberdeen, in particular, were always liable to perform



Hignett: new arrival

with more vim against Rangers than they did in the matches with the other half of the Old Firm.

The demands on the energies of Celtic have been great recently, with a 1-0 victory over Croatia Zagreb in the European Cup on Wednesday taking them to the edge of exhaustion. Josef Venglos, the manager, fielded Craig Burley in that match despite his damaged knee ligaments and his fitness for the future will have to be assessed.

Rangers, who meet Motherwell at Ibrox today, are seeking their first victory in the new Scottish Premier League, as do St Johnstone, at home to Kilmarnock. So early in the season, there is disquiet in one city. Dundee, who play Dunfermline Athletic at East End Park, are already regarded as at risk of relegation. Dundee United, whose board is under fire from protesting fans, face Heart of Midlothian at Tynecastle tomorrow.

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**WEEKEND TREBLE CHANCES LIST**

Home	Draw	Away
M 2/5 Arsenal	11/4	Nott'm For 13/2
8/11 Blackburn	9/4	Derby 10/3
9/4 Coventry	15/8	Chelsea 6/5
11/8 Everton	11/5	Aston Villa 13/8
4/11 Man Utd	11/4	Leicester 8/1
11/8 Middlesb'ro	11/5	Leeds 13/8
8/5 Newcastle	12/5	Charlton 5/1
11/8 Sheff Wed	11/5	West Ham 13/8
S 9/4 Southampton	15/8	Liverpool 6/5
6/4 Wimbledon	11/5	Tottenham 6/4
51/10 Birmingham	9/4	Crystal Pal 2/1
8/15 Bolton	12/5	Grimsby 5/1
6/4 Crewe	11/5	Barnsley 6/4
10/11 Huddersfield	9/4	Port Vale 5/2
4/7 Ipswich	12/5	Bury 9/2
6/4 Oxford	11/5	Wolves 6/4
S 5/5 Q.P.R.	9/4	Bristol City 11/4
6/5 Stockport	9/4	Norwich 15/8
2/1 Swindon	9/4	Sunderland 11/10
Evans Tranmere	9/4	Portsmouth 9/4
5/6 Watford	9/4	Bradford 11/4
5/4 W.B.A.	9/4	Sheff Utd 7/4
S 15/8 Aberdeen	9/4	Celtic 6/5
13/8 Dundee Utd	11/5	Hearts 11/8
5/4 Dunfermline	9/4	Dundee 7/4
11/8 Rangers	3/1	Motherwell 8/1
6/5 St Johnstone	9/4	Kilmarnock 15/8

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Family values give sense of perspective to £7m man

Kevin Davies, the Blackburn striker, is unaffected by the burden of being one of the game's most expensive players

Kevin Davies lumbered into the lobby. The receptionist had woken him from a deep sleep. He looked like a big, drowsy bear. It was just after lunch and he had been thinking of driving "across" to Sheffield, where his family lives and his soul lingers, but the weather had closed in on the moors above Blackburn and sent rain sheeting across the M65. He was going to stay put.

He fits "flash" about as well as Vinie Jones suits "soft". Perhaps it's just that he has not had time to get used to the high life. One of six children, he grew up "poor but always happy, always playing out" in Sheffield. His family is still his focus now. Providing for them has given him that rare ability that many other young men who get rich quick lack, the chance to put his wages in perspective and bestow them with a real value.

He seemed to be on the brink of forcing himself into the England squad when he sustained a serious ankle injury that ruled him out for the rest of the season. Even then, with only five months of Premiership football behind him, Davies had done enough to persuade Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn manager, to make him the club's record signing.

Somehow, there is something reassuring about the fact that this summer's big-money buy is as normal as the man on top of the Clapham Omnibus. You will not catch him in a sarong and probably not at a film premiere or in a nightclub punch-up. He loves his football, he's happy that it has made him a rich young man, but it hasn't wrought the change it wrings in others.



and division, four years ago when he broke into the first team and started earning £200 a week. Then, the season before last, Chesterfield set off on that thrilling, most improbable of runs to the semi-finals of the FA Cup, accounting for Nottingham Forest along the way and coming within an ace of beating Middlesbrough to get to the final. That shot Davies, a powerful 6ft 5in, 15st centre forward, and his team-mates into the public eye and at the end of the season Graeme Souness paid £750,000 to take him to Southampton.

"I was surprised when I found out Southampton had agreed to let me go," he said. "It came out of the blue really, but they made it clear it was up to me and I came up here and looked at the club and liked what I saw. When the last stand is finished, it will be a fantastic stadium - and I'm excited about playing in Europe, too."

"I don't care about money. It's never been important to me, but it's nice to have it there now. I've just bought a house for my family in Sheffield, which will be my home, too, although I'm going to buy a smaller place near Blackburn as well. It's nice not to have to worry about whether you can spend it on this or that, like most people do."



Davies will have the spotlight on him at Blackburn after the relative anonymity of life at Chesterfield and Southampton

At first, you wonder if he's dull. But that soon passes. It is just that we have been conditioned to flashiness in footballers, to extroverts and showmen, and this makes a pleasant change. Davies is not like that. He sits back and lets it all wash over him. He weighs things up for a while before he starts to relax. He exudes a calm that startled some of the other Blackburn players, who were expecting their record signing to come in tearing up trees.

Asked him if there was any part of him that was flash, he smiled for a moment. "Flash?" he said. He didn't even bother to answer any more than that. He shook his head a couple of times and kept smiling.

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and help them progress in the Uefa Cup. "More than anything, watching Chris has shown me what a bit of aggression can do and that perhaps I should be demanding the ball more," Davies said. "Off the pitch, I am quite quiet and I take that on to the pitch as well. When I play with Sutton, he is constantly yelling at people, telling them exactly what he wants."

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Cynicism and devotion remain as City adjust to their alien territory

Mark Hodgkinson finds enthusiasm at Maine Road undampened by relegation to the second division

AN assortment of dudes, suited-up and burly, stand guard at the entrance. "Two quid, mate," says the one with a neck the width of a fire extinguisher. The official car parks were full at 2pm, and all that remains are patches of roped-off wasteland with signs reading "Safe Parking". In a rush, kick-off time looms, we'll believe anything, risk everything.



Goal celebrations will prove enigmatic this season for City. Since they are perceived as infinitely superior to their rivals, it might be decent of their goal-scorsers to simply hold aloft a forefinger and nod sagely, in the manner of a Scout Master testing the wind direction before a six-mile hike.



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Shearer steps towards new form of limelight

Matt Dickinson puts the boot on the other foot to kick off a new column

COULD Alan Shearer be following Eric Cantona from the FA Carling Premiership to Tinseltown? Following his starring role in the McDonald's commercial, the first Hollywood offer has arrived on the England striker's desk.

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City boast four separate fanzines; it seems everyone wants to have their say on this fallen institution



FOOTBALL SATURDAY



Oliver Holt
The season has not yet begun and already the omens are not good for Middlesbrough in the FA Carling Premiership.



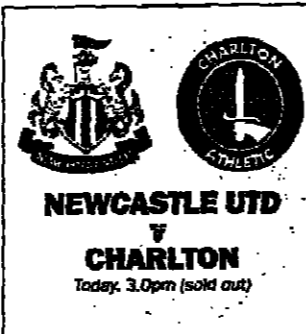
MIDDLESBROUGH v LEEDS
Today, 3.00pm (sold out)

may struggle to cope with the threat of a Leeds team who exceeded all expectations last season. They have more than compensated for the loss of Rod Wallace to Rangers with the signings of Dutchman, Clyde Wijnhoud, and Danny Granville, from Chelsea.

Added to that, they will welcome back Lee Sharpe after he missed almost the whole of last season with a knee injury. The attacking combination of Sharpe, Harry Kewell and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, mixed with the notorious obduracy of the Leeds defence, should be enough to prevent a happy return for Middlesbrough — even if Gascoigne and Pallister do play.



George Caulkin
It is rare indeed for the opening match of a season not to be accompanied by hope, hype and expectation.



NEWCASTLE UTD v CHARLTON
Today, 3.00pm (sold out)

of course, Newcastle's 2-1 victory over Sheffield Wednesday 12 months ago hardly led to a championship assault and neither, necessarily, would defeating Charlton. In fact, the idea of claiming Arsenal's crown is a mere fantasy for most Newcastle fans, but a vast improvement on the thirteenth-place finish of last season most certainly is not.

Not all is won or lost on the first Saturday of a new campaign. Such an outcome would mean more than just mild humiliation. Since their play-off final win on penalties over Sunderland in May, Charlton have invested around £2 million on new players and are heavily backed to make a swift return when they came.

more than just mild humiliation. Since their play-off final win on penalties over Sunderland in May, Charlton have invested around £2 million on new players and are heavily backed to make a swift return when they came.



Rob Hughes
The most intriguing questions of the new season revolve around Chelsea, the club whose wage structure frightens Alex Ferguson to death.



COVENTRY v CHELSEA
Today, 3.00pm (sold out)

intention of forsaking the Spanish sunshine for the industrial Midlands. Collectively, Coventry might overcome the thrilling individuality of Chelsea, though the heat will put a premium on skill against endeavour.

Vialli has worthy talents, he accepts that he must almost win or bust, and his problem is the search for consistency. Indeed, the bookmakers run a country mile when asked to name odds on Chelsea fielding the same team on successive matches, say three times, in the Premiership.

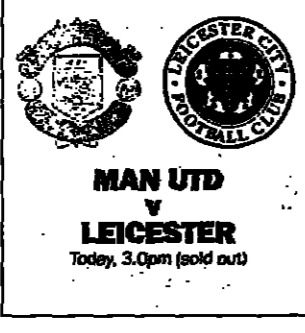
SIX THINGS ABOUT GAZZA



- 1. He is the only player of his age to have won the Premiership.
2. He has played in the Premiership for 10 seasons.
3. He has scored 100 goals in the Premiership.
4. He has captained his team.
5. He has been named in the PFA Team of the Year.
6. He has been named in the Football Writers' Association Team of the Year.



Kevin McCarra
Whether it be the profits, the attendances, the trophies or the indiscretions of Eric Cantona, extra large has been the only size in stock at Manchester United in the 1990s.



MAN UTD v LEICESTER
Today, 3.00pm (sold out)

Today brings another test of efficiency. The tight-knit Leicester City side will be a reliable gauge of United's readiness. Last season, Martin O'Neill's team won 1-0 at Old Trafford. The defenders, Frank Sinclair, a club record signing at £2 million from Chelsea, and Gerry Taggart, are the close-season acquisitions.

Leicester ideally need a new forward to partner Emile Heskey, but it is impossible to exorcise O'Neill for the lack of one when United have also failed to track one down. Despite the disparity in funding, Leicester and United have some experience in common.



Russell Kempson
Here we go. Eyes down, look in and get your money on Wednesday.



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v WEST HAM UTD
Today, 3.00pm (tickets available)

Wilson deserves his chance in the big time, having guided Barnsley into — and, it has to be said, out of — the Premiership, but it appears as though he will have his hands full at Hillsborough.

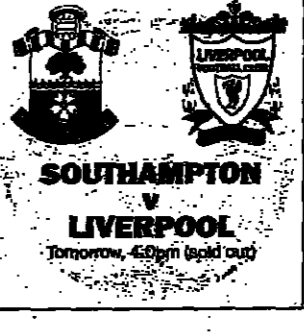
Bonito Carbone still cannot make up his mind whether he wants to return to Italy or stay in South Yorkshire while Dejan Stefanovic is having problems renewing his work permit. Roy Aikinson might have saved Wednesday from the drop last season, but he did not exactly leave behind much material.

especially if they avoid the displeasure of the referees. "Expectations are high," Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, reports. "I've not spent a fortune during the summer, although I've done a bit of wheeling and dealing, but I think we've got a pretty good squad. Let's put it this way: I haven't put any money on myself getting the sack."

Neither has Wilson, but there are a few shrewd, if heartless, punters who have. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (1997-98): 4-4-2: M. Wilson, R. Wilson, S. Wilson, S. Wilson, S. Wilson, S. Wilson, S. Wilson, S. Wilson, S. Wilson, S. Wilson.



Oliver Holt
For once, all eyes will not be on new signings at The Dell tomorrow, even if Southampton, in particular, have a plethora of them to parade.



SOUTHAMPTON v LIVERPOOL
Tomorrow, 4.50pm (sold out)

Quite how Owen will deal with the likes of Ken Monkou and Claus Lundekvam after running rings around the world's best in France is a source of great expectation. Whether he is merely man-marked or double-teamed is another matter.

With Robbie Fowler still recovering from injury, Owen will almost certainly be partnered in attack by Karlheinz Riedle because Sean Dundee, who cost £2 million from SC Karlsruhe, is injured. The resurgent Patrick Bergner is likely to play on the left side of midfield after a series of dynamic pre-season performances.

Liverpool's problems, though, are still likely to be at the back, not in attack. They have tried to remedy that by buying Vegard Heggen from Rosenborg for £3.5 million and Steve Staunton from Aston Villa, who arrived on a free transfer.

Even though David Hirst is injured, Liverpool are likely to be tested to the full by an old adversary, Mark Hughes. Still aggrieved by his release from Chelsea, he will be out to prove another point, although Southampton will miss the inventiveness and strength of Kevin Davies, who was sold to Blackburn Rovers.



Peter Robinson
Frankly, this business of carrying suspensions from one season to the next is a bad idea. Yes, yes, it seems nice at the time, stopping people from kicking each other senseless in the middle of a promotion/relegation struggle, but at what cost?



EVERTON v ASTON VILLA
Today, 3.00pm (sold out)

seemed less than likely when Manchester United were making public and rather clumsy attempts to sign him, but Stan Collymore has a sore thigh, so he gets the day off.

As for the likely outcome, it is anybody's guess. I'm afraid, Villa slaughtered Everton at Goodison last spring, but much has changed on the blue side of Stanley Park since then. It is also the first day of the season, which means previous form or future prospects mean exactly nothing. A good day for a wild guess.



Bill Edgar
The lavish spending earlier this decade that secured these clubs a passage to the FA Carling Premiership appears not quite enough to earn them an automatic place in the proposed European super-league.



BLACKBURN v DERBY
Today, 3.00pm (tickets available)

Perhaps this rejection by the money-motivated rebels has encouraged Jack Walker, the Blackburn Rovers owner, to make a show of financial strength. He has promised Roy Hodgson, his manager, unlimited funds to replace Colin Hendry, the club's talismanic centre back, who has joined Rangers.

The manager will hope that he has signed the right player in Kevin Davies, a striker acquired for £7.25 million on the evidence of half a season's work for Southampton. Dahlin and Da-

vis compete for places with Chris Sutto and Kevin Gallacher, arguably the Premiership's best forward pairing last term. Unlike Hodgson, Jim Smith, the Derby County manager, has strengthened his defence, increasing the total of nationalities in his squad to 13 in the process. Horacio Carbonari, an Argentinian, has joined for a record fee of £2.7 million while Stefan Schnoor has arrived on a free transfer from SV Hamburg.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (1997-98): 4-4-2: M. Wilson, R. Wilson, S. Wilson, S. Wilson, S. Wilson, S. Wilson, S. Wilson, S. Wilson, S. Wilson, S. Wilson.



Matt Dickinson
There is a theory among some of the Tottenham Hotspur players that there is a warm, loving soul inside Christian Gross bursting to get out. It was only the pressure of managing them that turned him into a maniac disciplinarian.



WIMBLEDON v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
Today, 3.00pm (sold out)

If Gross is to relax and enable his players to do the same, it must be now. His first fixture could not have been better, with an opener at Selhurst Park, where Tottenham won 6-2 last season. Then follows a gentle couple of months. Spurs do not play any of the "big four" (Manchester United, Arsenal, Liverpool and Chelsea) until the North London derby on November 14. It is imperative that they hit the ground running.

The lack of investment is worrying with Paolo Tramezzani, bought from Fiorentina for £1.4 million, the only new face. Gross, though, believes that the revitalisation of Darren Anderson, witnessed at the World Cup, is "like signing a new player".

Advertisement for Ambition bridge, featuring a large image of a bridge and text promoting weekend matches and other services.



There are debuts aplenty to look forward to — Cleland, Dacourt, Collins and Mazzanti for Everton, Thompson and perhaps Ferraresi for Villa — with Walter Smith sitting through his first FA Carling Premiership game on the Everton bench. Everton would like to have included Mario Stanic as well, but he has yet to complete a £6 million move from Parma — and, guess what, Villa wanted to buy him, too, funny that. Dwight Yorke is certain to lead the Villa attack, which

compensated by riches in attack. Martin Dahlin, dubbed The Torino during a poor first season, seems to have caught up at last. Outstanding pre-season form has led Hodgson to say: "Martin is now the player I thought I bought last year."

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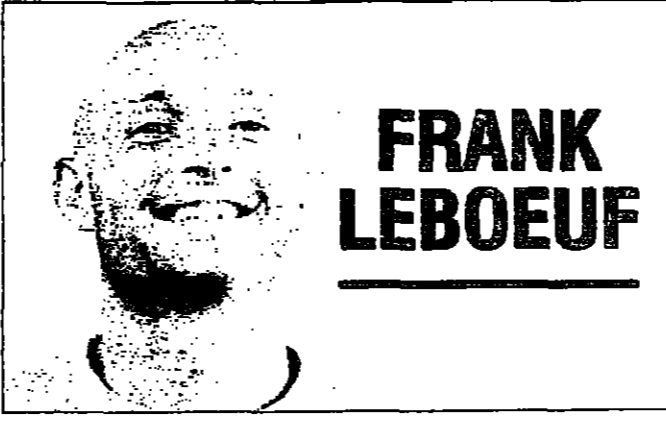
FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Ambition can help us bridge title gap

An outsider would not notice, but there is a different atmosphere about the Chelsea training ground this pre-season. It is only a subtle change in mood from the previous couple of years, but I believe it is a significant one.

beans. Rich sauces are out and salmon, rice and fresh vegetables are in. We will be a lean and, I hope, mean outfit.

desire to be successful. Marcel Desailly is one of the most fierce competitors I know and the type who always looks forward to fresh glories. For him, the World Cup final is already ancient history.



FRANK LEOEUF

really hard time, using his body and strong physique. I remember Luca saying as soon as he took over as manager that he wanted to make Chelsea a more ruthless team.

making sure that we have the mental resolve that is crucial in a championship side. I have never known there to be such attention to detail paid to tactics and formations a week before the start of the season, but we know we need to erase some of the flaws that meant we only finished fourth last season.

don. Everton and Crystal Palace. We drew only one and that is simply not a good enough record. It all starts this afternoon away to Coventry City, a game in which we immediately have the opportunity to see if we have learnt anything from last season.

Super league flaws I cannot pass up the opportunity to comment briefly on the proposed formation of a European super league, which I believe is fundamentally flawed, and I am not just saying that because Chelsea have not been invited!

queuing up at Old Trafford for the chance to watch games against average European sides and there are bound to be some of those even if it is called a super league.

On becoming a Union man The wonderful benefits that come from being a World Cup winner continue. I must start replying to all the very special letters of congratulations that I have been receiving, including those from Tony Banks and Tony Blair.

The latest invitation comes from the Oxford Union, where I have been asked to talk to the students about life and football. I understand I am joining a distinguished list of speakers at the famous university and it is a real honour. It will certainly be a little more highbrow than the usual dressing-room banter.

Table with football league tables for PREMIERSHIP, SCOTTISH PREMIER, FIRST DIVISION, SECOND DIVISION, and THIRD DIVISION.

BACK IN THE FRAME



Olson wings into Old Trafford: In June 1984 BC — before Blomqvist — the last Scandinavian wing wizard called Jesper to play for Man United posed for the camera.

Table with Premier League table and statistics for 20 teams including Arsenal, Manchester Utd, Liverpool, Chelsea, Leeds Utd, Blackburn Rovers, Aston Villa, West Ham Utd, Derby County, Leicester City, Coventry City, Southampton, Newcastle Utd, Tottenham Hotspur, Wimbledon, Sheffield Wednesday, Everton, Bolton Wanderers, Barnsley, and Crystal Palace.

SATURDAY STATISTICS

Table with Managers and Summer Spending data.

Sporting Index allows an infinite variety

AS IF there were not enough ways for punters to lose their shirts, spread betting has forced its way into the public consciousness over the past few years (Russell Kempson writes). It can be hazardous in the extreme but it at least offers variety, sometimes bizarrely, rather than the plain and simple win or first goalscorer bet.

Table with Referees and Football Coverage data.

Basically, the bookmaker offers a two-way price on the aspect of the event in question and the backer either buys at the higher price, for a unit stake of his choice, or sells at the lower. The difference between the result and the level the bet is opened at, multiplied by the unit stake, represents the profit or loss.

Table with First Division, Second Division, and Third Division league tables.

Table with Scotland Premier League, Second Division, First Division, and Third Division league tables.



The players had a whip round for Gian so here's 30 pieces of silver



Team-mate threatens Briton's Formula One future with Jordan

Hill prepares to put persuasive case

FROM KEVIN EASON IN BUDAPEST

THE highs have been the summit of Formula One, but the lows for Damon Hill have plumbed the depths of disappointment. Five years ago today, Hill won his first grand prix on the twists and turns of the Hungaroring. That victory set Hill on his way to a world championship and the sort of fame and riches that are the stuff of fiction and the fantasy of every lottery ticket buyer.

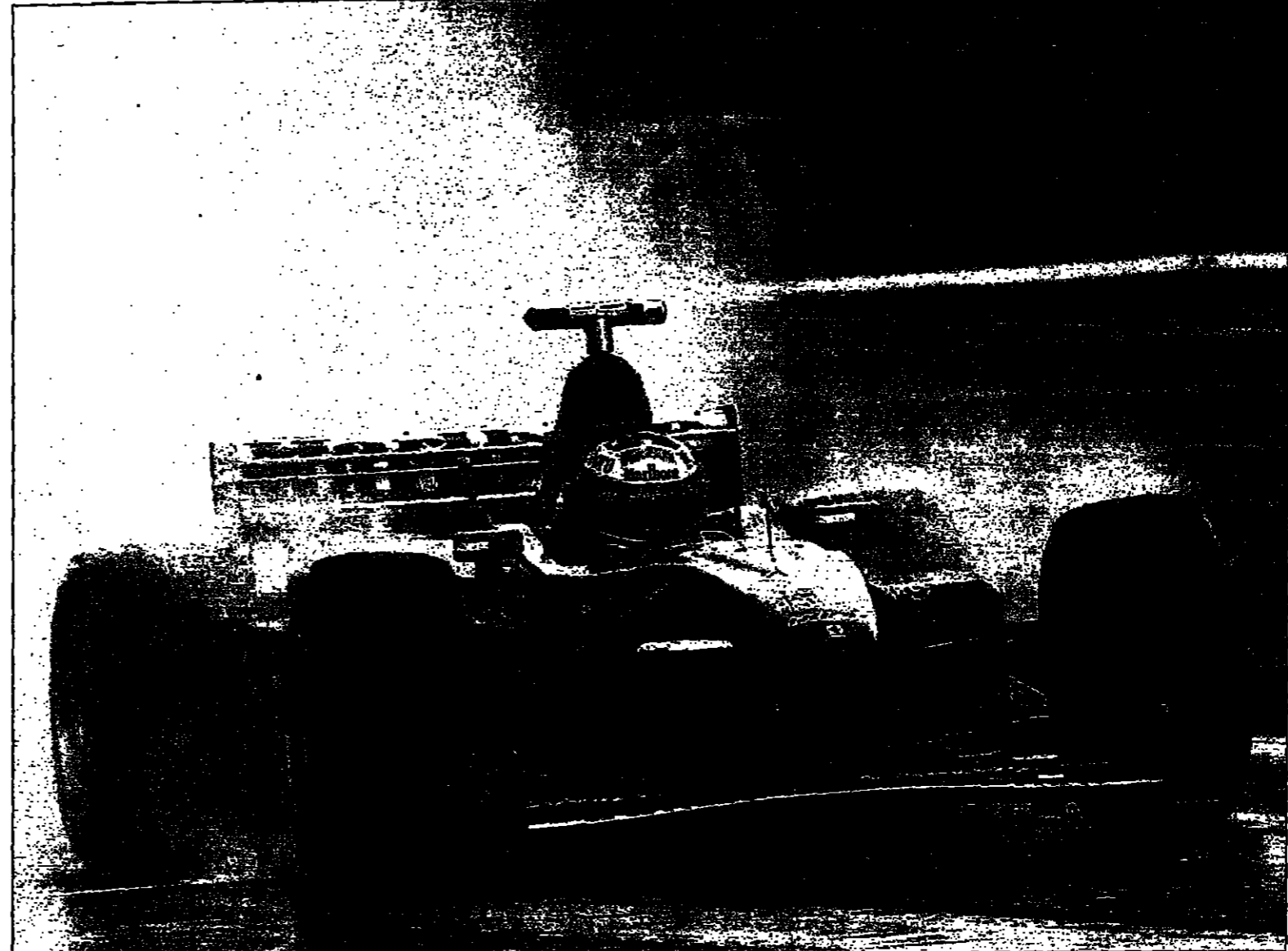
Hill is back in Hungary this weekend, older but not much wiser as to why the vagaries of Formula One condemned him to being an also-ran almost from the moment after he had lifted the championship trophy. Hungary provided the only high point in a blighted year with Arrows last season, though even his second place was apparently cursed too, an astonishing victory snatched from him by mechanical failure only minutes from the flag, allowing Jacques Villeneuve to win.

Though with his third team in three years, the Hungarian Grand Prix could again prove to be a decisive point in Hill's career. The McLaren and Ferraris dominated practice again yesterday, but, for once, Hill was close enough to believe that he can return to the podium for the first time in 17 races. His Jordan was less than a second off the pace of the leading McLaren of David Coulthard, but, perhaps more significantly, only a thousandth of a second behind the Ferrari of Eddie Irvine. Translating his sixth position yesterday on the time sheets to the same place in qualifying today would offer Hill his best hope of the season.

The Englishman, who so often has looked ill-tempered with frustration in 1998, was ebullient: "We are within shouting distance of the quickest car and looking good," he said. "We are only looking for seven-tenths of a second and, on this circuit, if you find a good balance, it is possible to find as much as a second."

"Practice can be deceptive, but I am feeling fairly confident and there is something to go for in this race. There really is an outside chance of getting the car up the grid; if we can do that, then I am really optimistic."

Certainly, a good result here would consolidate his efforts to ensure that he stays at Jordan next year. Relations with Eddie Jordan, the team owner,



Michael Schumacher puts his Ferrari through its paces in the wet conditions that prevailed during the practice session in Hungary yesterday

cooled dramatically over Hill's summer of discontent, when he vented his frustration loudly at the under-achievement of the team, even hinting that he would leave. Now the ground rules have shifted: Hill wants to stay, but Jordan is desperate to keep hold of Ralf Schumacher.

Schumacher started the season erratically, but he has out-qualified the 1996 world champion seven times this season and scored points in three races to Hill's single fourth place in the last race out in Germany. Now the German is in a powerful bargaining position, sought after by both Williams and British American Racing, and Willi Weber, his manager, has been only too quick to point out to Jordan that his man is earning less than a quarter of Hill's £4.5 million a

year. Jordan wants both men, but knows that he will be stretching his budget thin to pay two huge salaries, which might force Hill to accept a pay cut to stay, unless Jordan can convince Benson & Hedges, his main sponsor, that the pair are worth bankrolling with yet more millions.

"I have always said I wanted them both to stay," Jordan said. "My objective is for com-

munity and now our technical people have done a terrific job with the car and they both have something to work for."

Realistically, Hill is unlikely to influence the outcome of this race, although his fluent driving style is suited to a track that will shred the tyres of unruly drivers. As Hill's Jordan flowed through the hills of the Hungaroring yesterday, the memory of that first victo-

ry still strong, minds at Ferrari were cast back to another anniversary. Ten years ago, Enzo Ferrari, the founder of the most successful and enduring Formula One team, died.

Ferrari have endured a decade without the team's guiding light — and without championships. This season will be no different. Ferrari were pinning their hopes on their F300 performing better on this low-speed circuit, which demands high grip, than the high-speed Hockenheim, where the McLarens were in their element two weeks ago.

Unfortunately for Ferrari, the McLarens could probably perform brilliantly on the moon, so adept is the chassis-engine combination, and they should dominate this race as they have the past two. The only question is who will fin-

ish first, Coulthard or Hakkinen? The Scot answered the inquiry honestly yesterday by dropping more than a hint that he is prepared to allow his team-mate to drive to the championship unobstructed and will obey orders to move over if they are issued.

"I don't think it will be strange if the team wants me to support Mika, or unfair of them to ask me given the position of the championship," he said. "Looking at it from their point of view, I can understand that. They want a one-two result and preferably they want Mika to win."

Which means Coulthard will play the blocking role if necessary to ensure that Michael Schumacher gets no easy chances to close the 16-point gap between him and Hakkinen.

DETAILS FROM THE HUNGARORING

PRACTICE TIMES: 1, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:16.58; 2, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:20.18; 3, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:20.49; 4, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Machielstra) 1:20.44; 5, E Irvine (Ire, Ferrari) 1:22.77; 6, D Hill (GB, Jordan-Mugen Honda) 1:23.77; 7, G Fisichella (It, Benetton-Peyton) 1:23.10; 8, R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan-Mugen Honda) 1:21.18; 9, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Machielstra) 1:21.19; 10, R Barrichello (Brazil, Stewart-Ford) 1:21.41; 11, J Her-

bert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 1:21.57; 12, J Verstappen (Hol, Stewart-Ford) 1:21.50; 13, J Alonso (Esp, Sauber-Petronas) 1:21.50; 14, M Salo (Fin, Arrows-Tarso) 1:22.14; 15, A Wurz (Aut, Benetton-Peyton) 1:22.27; 16, O Minis (Fr, Prost-Peugeot) 1:22.42; 17, S Nakano (Japan, Minardi-Ford) 1:23.94; 18, Y Takagi (Japan, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:23.97; 19, P Dietz (Brazil, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:23.40; 20, E Tuero (Arg, Minardi-Ford) 1:23.87; 21, R Rosset (Brazil, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:25.11; 22, J Trull (It, Prost-Peugeot) 1:25.70.

Brazilian struggles to survive in the slow lane

He may be the worst driver in Formula One, but at least, in the mind of Ricardo Rosset, hope springs eternal. The hapless Brazilian goes into the Hungarian Grand Prix this weekend undaunted by his inability to get even to the start line, never mind the chequered flag.

According to a race preview issued this week by Rosset's Tyrrell team, which discusses the problems of overtaking at one of the twistiest and tightest circuits in the Formula One calendar, there are "surprises possible".

Alex Varnava, Rosset's race engineer, worries: "Overtaking is always a problem in Hungary. Unfortunately, this sort of circuit can make for professional racing. It is therefore very important to secure the best position you can in qualifying."

Overtaking for Rosset is not just a problem in Hungary but on every circuit, even when he has managed to stagger on to the grid. Rosset has qualified for only eight of 11 races

Kevin Eason reviews the calamitous grand prix career of Ricardo Rosset

this season and failed to complete five of those he actually started. His best finish was eighth in Canada, but that was only because mayhem accounted for most of the leaders and there were just ten finishers.

Yet he has made the last row of the grid his own, five times setting off from the tail of the field, the winning McLarens and Ferraris only a distant vision until they appear in his wing mirrors to lap him.

Rosset, 30, bought his seat in Formula One. He is the son of a São Paulo clothing magnate, who could afford to pay £3 million into Tyrrell to ensure a drive among the elite.

Performances ranging from unfortunate to hilarious drew anger and concern from his fellow drivers earlier this year, but that has turned to speaking admiration for his determination to carry on in the face of over-

whelming odds, apparently unaffected by the fact that hundreds of millions of television viewers regularly witness his most embarrassing moments.

His nadir came in Monaco, where Rosset first crashed into Jacques Villeneuve during practice and then, told the world champion that it was his fault. Then he spun, only to compound the felony by ploughing his Tyrrell into the crash barriers while trying to turn it to face the right way round.

Monaco was his second non-qualification, in succession. Formula One's first no-shows for a race since the Lola team failed to make the grid at the start of the 1997 season. That was the Lola team's Nol driver — Ricardo Rosset.

In fairness, that was hardly the Brazilian's fault, nor has his Tyrrell

been exactly been the most reliable car this year. Just how wide is the gulf between the first row of the grid and the last was demonstrated at the German Grand Prix two weeks ago, where Tyrrell expected Rosset to hit a top speed of 210mph. Actually, he hit a tyre wall and spent the weekend recovering, missing the race. In the meantime, David Coulthard registered 223mph in his McLaren, enough of a difference in Formula One to make Rosset look as though he was driving with the handbrake on.

With five races left, Rosset is now in the twilight of his brief and less than brilliant career, due to leave Tyrrell when it becomes British American Racing — to be replaced, wouldn't you know, by Villeneuve.

Still, he has left his mark on Formula One and there is always hope. As his engineer says of Hungary: "Our chances could be better than at some of the circuits we have visited recently". But then, things can only improve.



Rosset: winning is not an issue

GRAND PRIX 1998: HOW THEY STAND FOR HUNGARY

Grid of 22 Formula 1 cars with driver names, positions, and points. Includes logos for McLaren, Ferrari, Jordan, Stewart-Ford, Sauber, Danka Arrows, Prost Peugeot, Tyrrell-Ford, and Minardi.

HUNGARORING track map showing circuit length (2.656 miles), race distance (77 laps, 189.831 miles), and race schedule (Qualifying 11.40am, Race 12.20pm, Highlights 10.45pm).

Morcelli considers final stride into retirement

Noureddine MORCELLI, the world's leading miler for seven successive years until last season, may have run his final race. Morcelli has quit for the remainder of the summer and is considering making his retirement permanent.

In a period of dominance achieved rarely in any discipline of athletics, Morcelli, from Algeria, set world records at 1,500 metres, the mile, 2,000 metres and 3,000 metres, won three world titles and crowned it all with Olympic gold medals at 1,500 metres in 1996. That was just outdoors.

Indoors he was a world champion and world record holder at 1,500 metres. However, last season, Hicham El Guerrouj, from Morocco, supplanted Morcelli as world champion and this summer he has taken his 1,500 metres world record. Meanwhile, Morcelli has looked a sorry figure, culminating in his failure

Tyson boxing clever by applying to Nevada

WHATEVER maybe Mike Tyson's reasons for swiveling his application for a licence from the New Jersey Athletic Control Board to the Nevada State Athletic Commission, it was certainly the right move and a clever one at that.

It was Nevada that revoked his licence for biting off a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear in a championship bout a year ago, so it was right and proper that he should go back there to get himself reinstated. Shelley Finkel, Tyson's manager, is fairly certain of the New Jersey licence, and so decided to seek Nevada's approval first. Tyson has been criticised by the press and the public for trying to bypass the Commission in Las Vegas.

Finkel said yesterday that he felt very positive about going to Las Vegas. "We can always go back to New Jersey if it's bad in Nevada," he said. John McCain, the United States Senator who introduced

Boxing

legislation to clean up boxing, said that while Tyson had been legally within his rights applying to New Jersey, the move had been contrary to the spirit of the Nevada ruling.

Mills Lane, the Reno referee, who is still being blamed by Tyson for his problems,

said: "He has to face the music. He can't dance around it." Dr Elias Ghannem, the chairman of the Nevada Commission, added: "Maybe he [Tyson] has come back to his senses and decided that the best way to go about it is to go back to the state that revoked his licence. We have a very fair Commission and we make decisions on the spot, but he will have to convince the Commission he is a fit person to have his licence back."

A quick decision would be welcome as Tyson wants to have a contest in November of December against Jeremy Williams, who was knocked out in three rounds by Henry Akimov. The inquiry by Nevada is unlikely to be the charade that the New Jersey one was, with witness after witness making Tyson out to be blameless and it will not help Tyson if he loses patience with the questioning as he did in New Jersey.

Athletics

to finish in the Monte Carlo grand prix last Saturday. To escape El Guerrouj, Morcelli could step up to 5,000 metres but, with Haile Gebrselassie and Daniel Komen waiting, it hardly an easy option. So Morcelli, at 28, is thinking of calling it a day. "After all, I have been training really hard for 10 years now," he said.

Figures released yesterday by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) show the British Grand Prix, staged in Sheffield two weeks ago, way down the league of successful meetings this summer. Sheffield is ranked fifteenth on the IAAF table that evaluates meetings.

The British Grand Prix props up the table of Grand Prix I meetings held in Europe and the United States. It is no surprise that the four Golden League meetings staged so far

Athletics

are ahead of Sheffield, but it is unflattering that four Grand Prix II meetings score more highly. With the Golden League considering expansion from six events to ten next season, Britain cannot expect promotion. However, Fast Track, which took over the organisation and promotion of the British Grand Prix this season, will need to generate considerably more television and sponsorship income if Sheffield is to gain entry into the Golden League.

Alan Pascoe, the head of Fast Track, which took over after the British Athletic Federation went bankrupt, said: "It is not a disappointment because we understand there will be no change next year." Pascoe said: "It would not be until 2000 that we could come in anyway, which suited us, because we knew there was a year of pain as far as finance is concerned."

Tyson: impatient

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, partially visible, featuring a person and the text 'South Africa' and 'ish retorts in momous style'.



Sri Lanka open one-day tournament with victory over jaded opponents South Africa lose appetite for fight

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

TRENT BRIDGE (South Africa won toss): Sri Lanka beat South Africa by 57 runs.

SOUTH Africa want to go home and who can blame them? A summer that began well, with victory in the Texaco Trophy, and remained successful until the fourth Test, when a crucial decision went against them, has petered out. The weather was suitably dull in Nottingham yesterday, as they lost the opening game in the triangular tournament against the world one-day champions. They did not exactly run up the white flag, but, in mid-afternoon, as wickets tumbled, it was a close-run thing.

Sri Lanka have not greatly enjoyed their month in the country, consigned to the shadows while South Africa slugged out a Test series, but there were few signs of ring-rustiness. The way their openers set about the bowling, after they had been put in, was characteristically bracing, and they wasted no time in getting their claws into South Africa's batting: later, a game that should have been competitive, between the two most accomplished teams in limited overs cricket, turned out to be an immense disappointment.

Only when Rhodes and

Scoreboards Ben Hoffboake 38

Symcox were adding 100 in 16 overs for the sixth wicket did they look like making a decent fist of it. But after Rhodes drove a catch to deep mid-wicket, and Symcox followed two overs later, the innings disintegrated.

Ranathunga, a less portly chap now that he has shed two stone, made the top score, 53, before he was run out at the far-end of the innings. Jayasuriya, Kaluwitharana and Atapattu all made decent contributions to the total of 258, as did the reliable Mr Extras, but they will feel they should have left South Africa with a bigger hill to climb.

Before 15 overs had been bowled, however, it was clear that they had enough. Kirsten went second ball without scoring. Kallis followed and South Africa soon found themselves 32 for four, from which there was to be no way back. There were some weary men out there, wondering what they were doing. Apart from Rhodes and Symcox it was pretty thin gruel for the crowd of 7,000.

They couldn't have complained about the morning, though. Jayasuriya, whether he is in or out of form, always makes compulsive viewing and he was matched by Kallis, who was not shy to hit the ball over the top. They took 79 from



Pollock, the South Africa all-rounder, celebrates the wicket of Wickremasinghe, one of his three victims yesterday. Photograph: Alistair Grant

the first ten overs without a care in the world.

South Africa might have saved themselves a lot of both if Symcox had caught Jayasuriya when he drove the first ball of the innings to extra cover. Pollock, the bowler, finished with three wickets but he really wanted one then. It was left to Donald, who should really have been putting his feet up here after his labours this summer, to get among them, as Jayasuriya edged a catch and De Silva drove to cover.

After that stirring start, the innings lost some momentum as South Africa fought back gamely, and benefited from some poor shot selection. They took the field without their captain, Ranathunga, who was nursing a knee injury. It mattered not as Kirsten was bowled in the first over and,

with just eight runs on the board, Kallis drove wastefully to cover. After ten overs, South Africa were 25 for two.

Rindel clipped hard to square leg in the eleventh over and saw Chandana, the substitute, who had a very good catch as he moved to his left. In the next over, Perera yanked Cullinan. When Cronje was leg-before to Murali, South Africa were on the ropes at 66 for five.

Symcox, the off-spinner had been promoted to No 5. He is a powerful man, and a clean striker of the ball when the mood takes him and he played intelligently here, though he had little opportunity to open his shoulders. His half-century came from 77 balls with only one boundary, though he did swing Murali high into the crowd at mid-wicket. At that stage South Africa

needed 110 from 15 overs and so long as this pair could sustain their partnership they lived in hope that the men who came afterwards could see them through. Rhodes has just reached his half-century, from 46 balls, when he gifted a catch to Hathurusingha. After that it was all fall down. Symcox drove a straightforward catch to long-on in Dharmasena's next over and, in the over after that, Boucher was run out.

Elworthy, who had earlier bowled five overs for 43 runs, completed a hapless performance when he was out without scoring. The South Africans still had ten overs to bat out and they used up nine of them before Donald was the last man out, bowled by Dharmasena. Sri Lankahad won eagerly, and proved a point.

SCOREBOARD FROM TRENT BRIDGE

Table with columns for South Africa won toss, Sri Lanka, and South Africa. It lists players, runs, wickets, and other statistics for both teams.

Walsh retorts in venomous style

BY PAT GIBSON

BRISTOL (first day of four: Kent won toss): Kent, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 48 runs behind Gloucestershire.

THE umpires must notify the England and Wales Cricket Board when 15 or more wickets fall on the first day of a championship match, but Harry Brind, its pitches inspector, should not have to jostle with the weekend trippers on their way to the West Country. The clatter of 17 wickets at the County Ground had more to do with poor batsmanship than the quality of groundsmanship.

Gloucestershire, 62 points behind Surrey, the leaders, but with two games in hand, still nurse hopes of their first championship since W. G. Grace was in his prime. They have picked up fewer batting points than any other county however, and their problem was plain to see as they collapsed to 142 all out.

Kent, who have crept surreptitiously into fifth place, level on points with Gloucestershire but from a game more, have not done much better with the bat and they fared even worse this time, subsiding to 55 for seven before a gallant stand between Marsh and Phillips in fading light took them to 94 for seven.

It was fairly predictable that Courtney Walsh and company would match anything the Kent attack could do, but that should not detract from the way McCague and Thompson bowled in conditions that again proved how inept most county batsmen are when there is something in the pitch. This one had pace and

bounce but George Sharp and John Steele, the umpires, confirmed that it was not responsible for the mayhem. "It was quick," they said, "but it has been consistent and the ball has not seamed or swung unduly."

The pattern was set in the first four overs when Hancock, driving ambitiously, and Hewson, pushing apprehensively, were both caught low down at second slip by Hooper off Thompson, playing in only his second championship match of the season because of Headley's England call-up.

It would have been worse if Hooper had not put down another, easier, chance from Alleyne, then on eight, off McCague, looking like the England bowler he used to be. As it was, Alleyne, surviving two more difficult chances, managed to eke out 55 in three hours while his side perished around him, only Dawson having a hard-hack story after Fulton, at short leg, had instinctively parried his firm shot, flicked the ball up with his boot as it dropped in front of him and completed the catch.

Then it was Kent's turn to struggle. Ed Smith soon fell to struggle. Ed Smith's in-swing and Mike Smith's out-of-form Walsh bowled the out-of-form Ward second ball and had light caught at second slip. Fulton was just beginning to make batting look easy when Alleyne put himself on and held a return catch second ball. Two balls later, Chris Walsh, making his debut, was caught at slip. Then a dilatory Fleming was run out by Courtney Walsh's throw from all of 90 yards.

Caddick offers an England reminder

BY JACK BAILEY

TAUNTON (first day of four: Northamptonshire won toss): Somerset, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 52 runs behind Northamptonshire.

THERE was life and bounce in the pitch at Taunton, Northamptonshire, where the pitches are usually docile, were taken by surprise. They won the toss, looked expectantly for a sizeable score but found themselves fending off a rampant Andrew Caddick and no less effective Graham Rose, not without some danger to life and limb.

In the circumstances, they did pretty well to turn 33 for the loss of their first four wickets into 187 all out. The way that Caddick, of Somerset, and still, possibly, England, was bowling, they could have been all out for less than three figures. Only bold counter-attacking by Kevin Curran and David Sales and a fierce wag or two from the tail kept them afloat.

Northamptonshire could also be reasonably satisfied with the innards they made into the Somerset batting on a pitch that was still offering considerable help to the seamers, of which Northamptonshire have a formidable array, not to mention the accurate off-spin of Jason Brown. You can never tell for sure, but the odds against much happening here on the fourth day are long indeed.

Caddick and Rose, his long-time stablemate, took five wickets apiece during a Northamptonshire inning that was all over by 3.45pm. The first sign that batting

would be a hazardous business came early when Rob Bailey received a shorter during Caddick's second over. It lifted from just short of a length and Parsons took the first of several catches held by Somerset in the well-populated slip region.

The second loud appeal from successive legs found Montgomerie leg-before to Rose's swing. The prodigious Mal Lye — averaging 93 in the championship before this match — went to a fine, swooping catch by Trecothick and when Kennis, at short extra cover, held the ball aloft after Pemberton's skimming low drive, four wickets had gone for 33.

Curran, who took 14 off Pearson's last over before lunch, chanced his arm and, with Sales, added 68. It was all rather desperate stuff, however, and although Taylor and the Northamptonshire Rose added valuable runs before the innings was wrapped up, much swinging and missing was involved.

The Somerset batsmen fared little better. Trecothick looked in command for a while, but, after he had attempted an unwise pull far too early and was caught at point, their descent from 52 for one was rapid. Brown found the pitch responsive to his finger-spin, while Curran rotated his seam bowlers to great effect.

Had it not been for Bowler's watchful and determined batting, which saw him reach the only half-century of the game thus far, Somerset might not even have been contesting the lead on the first innings.

McLean makes swift progress

BY JOHN THICKNESSE

PORTSMOUTH (first day of four: Hampshire won toss): Hampshire, with seven first-innings wickets standing, are 50 runs ahead of Essex.

HAMPSHIRE had the good fortune to meet an Essex side short of four of their best five batsmen, then win the toss on a grassy pitch to set Nixon McLean loose on the parched-up outfield that remained. When the West Indies Test bowler took five for 37, it was little wonder there was only one side in it by the close.

The pitch might not have changed much by the time Hampshire started batting 70 minutes after lunch. It still had bounce and pace. What had changed, however, was the personnel: Essex had no body who could bowl as quickly as McLean, or on the day anyone who batted as fluently as Giles White or Robin Smith.

White was a revelation. In the entire Essex innings, there were only two attacking strokes of brilliance. Irani, their sole remaining top-five batsman, was responsible for one, a wonderful short-arm hook for six off a ball from Stephenson most batsmen would have been deflecting for a single.

The other was a punched straight four by Napier, 18, which thanks to a Hartley yorker, disappointingly represented four-sevenths of his score. Nothing could have upstaged Irani's six. But when White drilled the first ball of the innings through the covers, and followed with a straight drive and a skimmer off his legs in Nott's next two

overs, Essex would have feared there was no way back for them. Smith turned their fears to certainty. Arriving a few minutes before tea, after a second-wicket stand of 53 by White and Kendall, he announced himself with one of his lethal, crouching square-cut fours and reached 50 off 57 balls with eight fours.

Essex might have been out for many fewer than their 141 had McLean and Hartley made best use of conditions in the morning, when the pitch was the same colour as the infield. But McLean, seemingly over-excited by the bounce, bowled consistently too short, while initially Hartley too seldom made the batsmen play, certainly for a long-serving medium pacer.

To keep a toehold on the game, though, Essex needed either Irani or Grayson to take root. But Irani gave two chances before lobbing McLean to a motionless long leg, while Hartley out-thought Grayson, pushed him back and had him leg before.

They were off to a bad start when in the third over Robinson, their third most experienced batsman in the absence of Hussain, Stuart, Law and Peters, fended McLean to third slip off a ball he had no need to play.

When Hodgson, a left-hander, was beaten by a ball slanted across him by McLean, Hibbert edged Morris to the wicket-keeper past one of the best balls of the innings, and Grayson and Napier were trapped by Hartley, they were 104 for five at lunch, and lost their last five wickets in 12.4 overs in the afternoon.

Hectic win is swiftly forgotten on a dull Derby day

BY BARNEY SPENDER

DERBY (first day of four: Worcestershire won toss): Derbyshire were all out for 260 in their first innings.

LYING three places off the bottom of the county championship there has been little cheer about as the Racecourse Ground this season, but on a dull and grey day, which saw the play abbreviated at either end by rain, there was an unfamiliar buzz as the members queued eagerly outside the club offices to buy their tickets for the NatWest final.

Unfortunately, the mood of levity that followed their hectic win over Leicestershire on Wednesday extended to the Derbyshire batsmen who, having been put in to bat by Tom Moody, the Worcestershire captain, failed to make the most of a threadbare attack and what appears to be a pretty decent pitch.

They were undone in part by their own impetuosity — six wickets fell to poor shots — and in part by the bowling of Stuart Lampitt, who bowled a tight line to collect five for 33 with his honest, if somewhat unspectacular, medium pace. It was his best performance of the season and was just one run shy of his career best; he took five for 32 against Kent nine years ago.

Two of Lampitt's victims, Michael May and Robin Weston, were surprised by balls that jugged back into them and Ian Blackwell got the best ball of the day, a lifting ball that left him, to fall first ball. Kim Barnett and Matthew Caesar, however, went on the chase and perished to rank had shots.

At least Weston gave further cause for pleasure in the Derbyshire ranks with a meticulous 84, his third 50 in four championship games and a mature one at that. It is strange to think that Durham, who released him last year, left they could live without him.

He had a fruitless trial with Worcestershire earlier in the summer, which may have added to his determination and pleasure. He struck 12 fours and appeared to take a special delight in lashing his elder brother Philip's dubious looking left-arm seam to the boundary.

Michael Slater briefly looked the part with three boundaries off Bobby Chapman's first over but departed when he edged a catch to Steve Rhodes. Slater clearly did not approve of the final decision and, after a lengthy delay at the crease, finally departed with much head-shaking and an accusatory finger pointing at the Worcestershire wicketkeeper.

Durham in charge as Speak edges his way to half-century

BY MICHAEL AUSTIN

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four: Durham won toss): Durham have scored 269 for four wickets against Glamorgan.

THE suggestion of increasing turn persuaded Durham, and especially Nick Speak, to adopt an attritional approach against an inexperienced Glamorgan attack on a slow pitch. Whether the end justifies the means may depend on an unpromising weather forecast, but Speak looked initially content simply to find some form.

Boon also batted at his leisure in making 86 not out to approach his third championship hundred of the season, hitting ten fours from 223 balls in the process.

Speak, with a meagre average of 26 before this game, edged his way to 59 off 172 balls in four hours. His lack of adventure was underlined by his failure to hit a boundary in a spell of almost two hours late in his innings.

When slashing a catch to third man, Speak duplicated the careless dismissal of Morris, who had shared Durham's best first-wicket stand in the championship this season of 76 with Lewis. Durham had averaged only 17 runs in 23 previous opening partnerships.

Without Croft and the injured Watkin and Waqar Younis, Glamorgan relied on Dale, a purveyor of away swing with assistance from a cross-field wind, and Cosker, whose 27 overs of left-arm spin cost only 31 runs.

Simon Jones, 19, son of Jeff, the Glamorgan and England fast bowler of the 1960s, showed potential on his championship debut and took the catch to dismiss Speak and end a fourth-wicket stand with Boon of 128 in 49 overs.

Thomas dismissed Morris and then Lewis, caught low at first slip, to reach 52 first-class wickets this season, but Glamorgan's day was one of toil. Speak made it so, having scored only 38 runs in Boycott-style between lunch and tea, without offering the semblance of a chance. Daley, pushing forward, edged an out-swing from Dale to Darwood. He had played several authentic strokes through the covers but, typically, failed to build on a sound start. Even Boon was fallible, chopping Thomas as past his stumps and playing an occasional false stroke between his favourite cuts. Glamorgan can expect Durham to bat on today with the intention of building a formidable total while increasing the spin-friendly wear on the pitch.

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CRICKET

Lancashire make hay at expense of tradition

By Richard Hobson

HEADINGLEY (Lancashire won toss; first day of four; Lancashire have scored 455 for eight wickets against Yorkshire)

IF THE graveyards of Yorkshire and Lancashire were noisier than usual last night, it was probably the rattle of bygone cricketers turning. Never before can the bowling have been as charitable, or the batting as cavalier, on the first day of a Roses contest.

The cricket at Headingley yesterday will have provoked incredulity on each side of the Pennines and, for Yorkshire, the remote possibility of catching Surrey, the championship leaders, was surely lost in the first mad session, when they conceded 190 runs in 24 overs.

Lancashire, having conspicuously ignored the tradition of "no fours before lunch" in this supposedly most attritional of county matches, continued to punish anything loose thereafter. Nobody drank deeper than John Crawley, whose 180 beat Ernest Tyldesley's record of 178 as the highest individual score for Lancashire here in the championship.

Crawley batted for 327 minutes and faced 293 balls, hitting 24 fours and a six. It says much for the pace at which Lancashire began after winning the toss that his most profitable shot was sliced over third man as early as the seventh over.

Hutchinson plugged away, but Hoggard did not recover after conceding 48 in his first spell of four overs. Stemp had no excuse and Middlebrook, a young off spinner, maintained a far tighter line and length. Ominously, given that Lancashire, too, have included two

spinners, the ball he produced to bowl Wasim Akram turned appreciably. Crawley's fifth hundred of the season, and fourth in the last five innings, will have reminded the selectors of his ability, though not necessarily persuaded them that he warrants a recall to the England ranks for the one-off Test match against Sri Lanka. He was dropped at Sri Lanka. He was dropped at Sri Lanka.

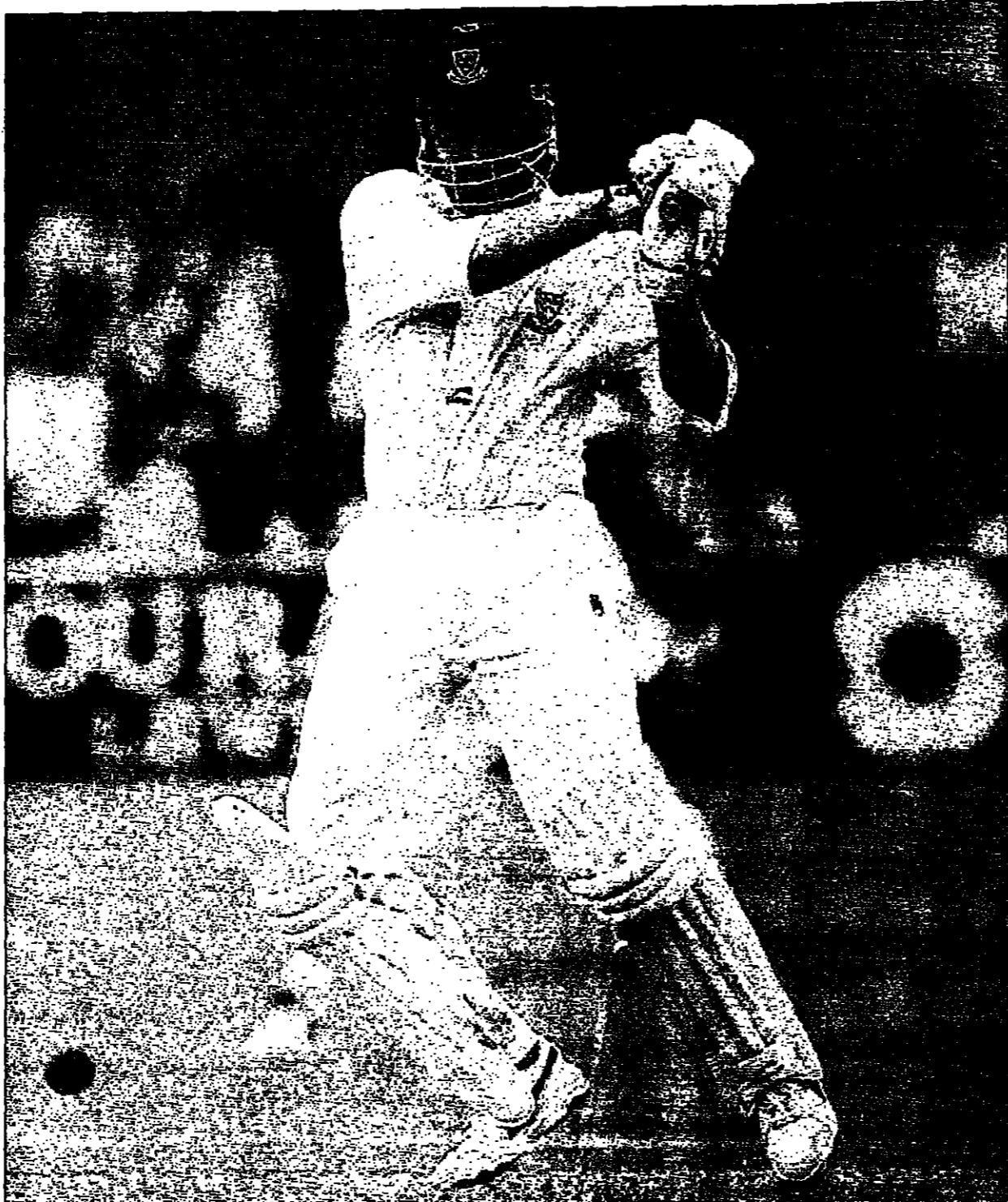
Poorly as Yorkshire bowled, there was also a large degree of culpability about Lancashire's batting. Wood started Hutchinson to slip in the fourth over and Fairbrother, adding 88 in 14 overs with Crawley, was caught behind stinging at a wide ball from McGrath. Flintoff then gave a catch to Vaughan at square leg as he failed to get over an attempted pull against Hoggard.

There was madness in the method at times, but method behind the madness too. Although the predicted rain has stayed away so far, it seems likely that time will be lost to the weather at some stage, and Lancashire, having climbed above Leicestershire by virtue of their four batting points, are desperate for a positive outcome here to bite into Surrey's lead.

Lloyd does not need a reason to play aggressively. He soon drove Stemp back over his head and reached 50 in just 48 minutes. His dismissal replicated that of Flintoff, with Hutchinson the bowler this time, but the support offered to Crawley by Hegg proved equally reliable. Hegg appeared distinctly agitated when he was adjudged leg-before against McGrath.

Crawley had reached the stage of near-dominance after tea. Other than a tendency to mistime his sweeps against the spinners no shot seemed out of his range. It was surprising that he should offer a thin, leading edge to Blakey attempting to force the persevering Hutchinson through mid-wicket, against the bowler's natural slant.

Austin and Yates extended the total beyond 400 in the most becalmed period of the day. The only consolation for Yorkshire is that Wasim has suffered a recurrence of his toe injury and may not bowl.



Adams, the Sussex captain, pulls another boundary on his way to an imperious innings of 170 at Hove yesterday

Adams puts Sussex in overdrive

By Ivo Tennant

HOVE (Sussex won toss; Sussex have scored 371 for seven wickets against Middlesex)

GIVEN a firm pitch and, in opposition, a medium-paced county attack lacking in variety as much as in experience, Chris Adams will as often as not bat with a great sense of purpose. His innings of 170 against Middlesex yesterday, authoritative throughout, enabled Sussex to reach a total of 371 for seven before an excellent holiday crowd. It was his fourth century of the season and his highest score since his arrival on the South Coast.

Other than when Tufnell and Weekes were bowling together straight after lunch, Middlesex looked as out of sorts as their standing in the Britannia Assurance county championship table would suggest. Two of their side chose to wear their flimsy and

unappealing Sunday League caps, some of their ground fielding was slipshod, and Tufnell kicked a stump out of the ground in frustration after the ball went for four overthrows off his own bowling. They did have some success after tea, when Rao, who contributed a pleasing half century, was run out responding to his captain's call for a quick single. Then Wasim Khan, resuming his innings after retiring hurt with a sore knee, was leg before to Hewitt, as was Martin Jenkins. From 306 for three, Sussex would have struggled to assert themselves but for Adams batting with ever increasing dominance.

One shot in the last session, just after he had reached 150 from 210 balls with 24 fours, emphasised this. Ramprakash had two fielders on

the boundary for Hewitt, one at a squarish long leg and the other backward of square, yet Adams still dissected them. He always looked to take on the bowlers, not least in his cover driving. When he and Bevan were adding 96 in 16 overs, batting looked a simple affair indeed.

This after a relatively indifferent start upon winning the toss. Newell, who has managed just 25 runs in six innings, was taken at second slip off Bloomfield, his defensive shot that of a man who has no self confidence remaining. Teirce was leg before not fully forward, and what with Wasim retiring early in the day, Sussex looked to their captain to come up with an innings of some magnitude. The club responded to criticism of the square — by

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table containing cricket scoreboards for various counties including Lancashire, Yorkshire, and others. Includes columns for batsmen, runs, and bowlers.

FOR THE RECORD

Table listing various sports records and events such as Athletics, Badminton, Baseball, and Cycling. Includes names of athletes and their achievements.

ATHLETICS

Table listing athletic events and results, including track and field, swimming, and other sports. Includes names of athletes and their times/scores.

Shah's class fails to bring the best from England

By John Stern

WORCESTER (first day of four; Pakistan Under-19 won toss; Pakistan Under-19, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 255 runs behind England Under-19)

IN MAKING a superb 96 yesterday, Owais Shah, the England Under-19 captain, showed himself to be in a class above his colleagues in the first NatWest Under-19 Test and continued his welcome return to form.

Having been dropped for one match by Middlesex after a second pair of the season, Shah, 19, has responded by making 140 against Yorkshire, 52 in both innings against Warwickshire, a fifty in the third Under-19 one-day international and then this delightful innings, which contained 16 fours and one six.

However, his dismissal four runs short of his hundred started a sequence of three wickets in 12 balls as England frustratingly threw away the initiative that Shah and Michael Cough, the dogged Durhaz opener, had established. Shah had hit Shoab Malik, the off spinner, for a straight six and four to move into the nineties, but off the first ball of the next over he tried to swat a big bouncer over square leg. With his bat almost vertical, he succeeded only in edging the ball to the wicketkeeper.

Five balls later Swann was out leg-before to an Irfan Fazil yorker and Peters was caught as he pushed forward in the next over. England, who were so prone to these lapses in self-discipline on their winter tour of South Africa, had slipped from 200 for three to 208 for six.

The decision of Bazid Khan to put England in raised eyebrows because although there was movement with the new ball, neither the colour nor the behaviour of the pitch appeared to justify an insertion. England would have probably chosen to bat first. However, Irfan's final spell, which yielded four wickets for six runs in 22 balls to finish England off for only 260, said otherwise.

His use of the inswinging yorker, with which he shared three of his six victims, was exemplary. Both Irfan, 17, a bustling right-arter, and Zahid Saeed, the left-arter, were extremely brisk, swinging the ball and troubling most batsmen with their pace.

There was time for only one over of the Pakistan innings before rain brought a premature end to the day. It was time enough, though, for Larman to drop Inam-ul-Haq off Grove before he had scored.

Rain takes Ashes series into final showdown

By Sarah Potter

HARROGATE (final day of four; England drew with Australia)

OWNERSHIP of the Ashes will now depend on the final Test at Worcester next week. One last session to rain — at a crucial stage on the penultimate day — was enough to condemn this match to a draw. Australia, who had made all the running for three days, considered the pitch, too flat to offer a morning declaration and batted until mid-afternoon for their 283 lead.

Two Tests have yielded more than two thousand runs for the loss of only 33 wickets — an average of 65 runs per wicket. This is roughly twice the usual expectation and does not make for the most entertaining cricket. Plainly, either pitches such as Guildford or Harrogate are too flat for these women's matches or the Tests should be stretched to five days.

Australia have the most penetrating attack in the world. Had they not lost the services of Charmaine Mason, to a groin injury, it is possible they would have been more adventurous. Especially as England were unable to field their most influential batsman of the series, Jan Brittin.

Brittin has been batting with the finger she broke during the one day series swathed in bubble-wrap but, early yesterday, a visit to the local hospital confirmed an infection. A course of antibiotics should ensure her availability at Worcester.

Yesterday's play was not without incident. Lisa Keightley missed out on a century for Australia, lobbing a simple catch to Karen Smithies at square leg. Karen Rolton showed exceptional timing to finish unbeaten or with the field for England, captain Smithies led a spirited display with two wickets.

At the crease, Charlotte Edwards was unbeaten on 42 when the game came to its end. 15 overs into England's second innings. In the two Tests to date, the Home side's openers have registered 592 runs. Brittin was duly named as the Australian award.

It was umpires, Ann Roberts and Alan Heath, however, who caused Harrogate heads to shake. On at least two occasions, the players should not have remained on the pitch. It undermined them and, as the drizzle turned to driving rain, they were so slow to respond that the wicket became too wet. Abandonment was confirmed at 5pm.

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Young Surrey all-rounder refuses to be written off as a one-Test wonder

# Hollooake longing for bigger stage

ALAN LEE



Remember Ben Hollooake? He has been all too easy to forget this summer, as those celebrated sightings of a precocious, glamorous talent have given way to a whiff of scandal and the stale stench of indifference. Boy wonder all too soon became just another mortal man. Dismiss him, though, at your peril.

It is, admittedly, too long now since the teenage Hollooake descended like a God-given saviour of the game, stunning a Sunday full house at Lord's by treating Glenn McGrath like a club bowler in the park. Flipping him here, biffing him there and, best of all, responding to a vitriolic mouthful from the Australian with a guileless grin.

That was in May last year, the third of three victories in a one-day series illusory in more ways than one. Since then, Hollooake's only appearance for England at home was in the Trent Bridge Test, ten weeks later, when the Ashes were conceded again.



Ben Hollooake will be absent from Sunday's big match at Lord's but is confident he has emerged stronger from this year's setbacks and knows the selectors are alive to the qualities he can offer England

He qualifies for membership of the one-Test club and there are sceptical souls ready to declare that he will never disown the right. For Surrey, this year, he has made few runs and wickets have come in twos and threes rather than the fives and sixes that command attention. Now, it seems, Andrew Flintoff has usurped him as the new kid on the block.

Tomorrow, however, Lord's stages another Sunday one-day international, against Sri Lanka. Hollooake will be absent, for he could not gain selection even in England's squad of 14, but there will doubtless be those in the capacity crowd for whom the occasion will stir a memory and beg a question: "What's happened to him?"

The answer is quite a lot, little of it good. Since spring, young Ben has had to cope with adversity for the first time. Only now is he showing signs that the experience, initially diminishing, will make him a stronger person.

At Headingly this week, Hollooake seized his chance in a representative situation. His unbeaten 70 for a Counties Select XI against the South Africans was a reminder of the range and timing of his stroke-play. He also took a couple of wickets. His cricket bore a mark of new maturity but the boyish humour re-

mained. David Lloyd, the England coach, emerged from the dressing-room at Headingly on Wednesday shaking his head in mock bewilderment. "He wants to know the way from here to Alton Towers," he reported, wide-eyed. "You know, kids on rides and all that." Hollooake, smartly blazered, clean-shaven and close-cropped, followed him out, enjoying his little joke.

His expression changed to solemnity, though, as we discussed what has befallen him since the tabloid-led nation decided he alone was young enough, sexy enough and, oh yes, talented enough, to make cricket acceptable in the modern marketplace.

There was no instant decline, no sudden collision with reality. Instead, he accepted his lot last summer, toured Sri Lanka with the A team with considerable distinction and returned home to find everyone taking him into the senior side for the home season. And then, nothing.

Well, not quite nothing. The first cut was, indeed, the deepest - a vague, unsubstantiated but nonetheless damaging reference in an error-ridden magazine article implied that he had smoked cannabis while on tour in Sri Lanka.

The context was ironic. The allegation appeared in the type of

treedy magazine cricket would love to infiltrate in search of a younger audience - so much so that the journalist concerned had been underwritten on his assignment by one of the English game's biggest sponsors. It was a spectacular over-goal and, for Hollooake, the timing was dreadful.

He talks about the episode now with natural resentment, but stops short of self-righteousness. "I was pretty shocked at first," he said. "I found it quite annoying. I got nailed for doing it, both in the papers and in the minds of other people, but when I was drugged tests a month later, I saw no publicity about the fact that it was negative."

Adam, Ben's elder brother, believes the crisis occurred because Ben was "too trusting". If it was a set-up, though, it was also a let-down. It may be a commonplace for 19-year-olds to smoke cannabis recreationally but when it is alleged of an international sportsman, slur and stigma result.

"I know now it was one of those things that were waiting to happen," the younger Hollooake said. "I'd been built up and someone was going to drag me down. It's the way some people with a pen in their hand tend to work. I just have to forget it, put it behind me."

At first, Hollooake feared that his

career was being sent into freefall. "When I got dropped for the one-dayers in May, I was really disappointed. My first thought was that it had something to do with the drugs thing. But Grav [David Graveney] phoned and told me it definitely wasn't and I believed him."

The upset, though, had a deeper effect on him. His form was poor and those close to him believe it was no coincidence. The confidence and instinctiveness was drifting away. He had to turn things

around and he had to do it alone. But then he is used to this. "I've pretty much always looked after myself. My parents still live in Australia and I was at boarding schools in England from a very young age. After that, I lived with Adam for the best part of three years before getting my own place.

"The need to be independent has helped me, on the whole, but there have been times when I could have done with a mum or a dad around and the drugs issue was one of those situations when it would have helped."

Ben's place is in Battersea, a typical bachelor flat - "very messy" he admits in his slow drawl - and it is there that he relaxes from cricket. "I sleep a lot," he says. "On a day off, I can be found in bed quite late. I sit around on my sofas, watching television or listening to music - rock-funk stuff, like Lennie Kravitz."

Just like any 20-year-old, really. Except that Hollooake has not been allowed to be just anyone. A great

deal has been expected of him, a huge amount of attention dispensed on him. So far, he is acutely aware, the returns have not matched the investment.

He looks back on his two spectacular days at Lord's last year - the second of them a 98 in the Benson and Hedges Cup final - and admits he felt instant affinity with the big stage.

"Yeah, it felt like I belonged there. I knew I hadn't done what most have to do before playing for

England, the grafting and earning your place, but it felt like I'd been picked at the right time.

"It didn't surprise me that I wasn't immediately in the Test side. I didn't think it would happen, despite all the fuss in the press. But if they had chosen me, I'd have backed myself to do well again. I would have felt comfortable."

The only two first-class centuries of his career were made in Sri Lanka, in the unofficial A-team Tests. "It's annoying to admit it but I think I play better in overseas conditions. Sometimes, English wickets don't agree with my style of batting but if I'm going to be a county cricketer I've got to learn."

Surely, though, county cricket is not the apex of his ambitions? He banishes the thought immediately. He has worked, recently, with the England coaches, Graham Gooch and Bob Cotton, and believes the breakthrough is imminent.

"I've been treading water but I'll definitely be all right. I know I have got a strong enough character to come back. Some people have written me off already but that doesn't worry me in the slightest."

"My bowling has been fine, a lot better and stronger than last year, but I've been impatient in my batting. I know there is a big score just around the corner and I've been trying to force it to come rather than playing each ball on its merits."

"I have worried about a fair few things this year. There is a sense of frustration but I've only got myself to blame, so it doesn't last that long - I just tell myself to get on with it. I've shown some temper, too, because it's the first time at any level that I've experienced prolonged failure. I'm learning to deal with it and, next time, it won't last so long."

He has no carp against the selectors, merely expressing appreciation that they have encouraged him. "I know they all rate me. They think I can play. I've just got to prove to them that I am ready now."

His soul hardens only when he talks of the inflated publicity that trailed him for so long and the inevitable hurt when it turned sour. "I will admit that I got a bit overtaken by it last year. I didn't get a big head or start believing in it all but name me any 19-year-old who wouldn't have enjoyed that?"

"I'd never had any bad publicity, it had all been good. Now that I've experienced a bit of the other side, I'll be a bit more wary if the good times come round again." And they will, won't they? "Maybe sooner than anyone thinks," he said with heartening conviction.

There is a sense of frustration but I know I have only myself to blame

## Reborn Cork helps Derbyshire climb off the canvas

This has been good news week. England beat South Africa on Monday to win a five-Test series for the first time in 12 years, and on Wednesday Derbyshire reached the NatWest Trophy final after a thrilling win at Leicester. Dominic Cork, who had a hand in both games, as player and then as captain, must think his cup run is over. That may be good news, too. English cricket may have regained an important player.

At the beginning of the season, given the choice, Cork would have settled for half the cake. That he has wuffed it all down, crumbs and all, is a boon for him and for us all.

"Corky" really is a Broadway Baby - "a spark, to pierce the dark, from Battery Park - way up to Washington Heights". You can't keep him off the stage for long, un-

less you turn out the lights and lock the theatre. If his recovery from injury and disenchantment is maintained throughout the winter, and beyond, English cricket will be richer for it.

But it is my intention, after that storming semi-final at Grace Road, to salute his club. Derbyshire are seen by many people as a dowdy, woe-begone club, and they have certainly endured a rough old time of it. All the more reason, therefore, to commend their achievements: if only to remind them that not everybody is against them.

To reach Lord's they had to beat Surrey and Leicestershire on their own grounds, each time after losing the toss. That is an achievement in itself. They mummified the brown-batters, and kept their nerve admirably at Leicester, when the home side appeared to be coasting to victory. That semi-final was an excellent game, to which Leicestershire contributed a good deal, though not as much as they would have liked.

Those are the bare bones of the story which, when flesh is

added to it, makes their progress even more commendable. Devon Malcolm, their opening bowler, and Chris Adams, one of their leading batsmen, left the club last winter and have since sent shots across the bows of a stricken ship. They had their own reasons for leaving, money and personal ambition among them, but their joint depart-



ture was not designed to make those they left behind feel any better. Incidentally, whatever became of Malcolm? Has anybody spotted him this season?

They have also had to compensate for the loss of Rollins and Harris, two of their better young players. The team has a hot-potch look to it: tyros trying to make their way in the game, cast-offs from other counties, a couple of old lags, a wicketkeeper who can be heard in neighbouring shires and a first-time captain. Yet they are going to Lord's, and 16 other teams are not.

It is good news because Derbyshire have come to represent everything that English cricket wishes it wasn't. They are provincial, for one thing, and we are all supposed to genuflect towards the clubs, and grounds, that generate large amounts of cash.

"What have they ever done for the game?" is a common complaint.

Well, let's have a look. In the last decade they have won two of the three one-day cups, and now have a chance of the hat-trick. They have finished second and third in the championship, and might have won it if Malcolm, who accused them of a lack of ambition in his recent appalling autobiography, had bowled straighter in the last months of 1996.

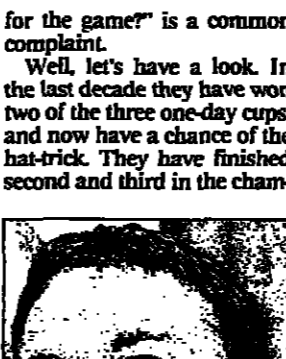
That's a far better record than, for instance, Surrey can boast, or Lancashire, who have far greater resources.

Furthermore, they have done it in financial circumstances that brought the club to its knees, and amid an atmosphere of mutual recrimination. There have been committee room shenanigans that make relations in a Sicilian village look positively harmonious. For a time, three or four years ago, it was impossible to turn on Cee-fax without seeing in the cricket section those three words: "Derbys face ruin".

Slowly, and not without struggle, they are putting it all

behind them. The club has bought the old grandstand at its ground, and there are plans to transform the place. It is a ground, incidentally, that is not nearly so hand-me-down as some people imagine. It is never a penance to go to Derby. The people are friendly (to outsiders, if not always to one another) and the press box can often be the funniest place in the kingdom.

Yet the image of neglect persists. "Derby is not a place for an overseas player to go", a television interviewer "asked" Michael Slater at Leicester. What intolerable presumption! There, in a nutshell, was everything this club has to fight against, and why their presence at Lord's is so delightful. And, if Slater scores the winning runs to beat Lancashire on September 5, all right-thinking people should offer three hearty cheers.



Slater: televised 'warning'

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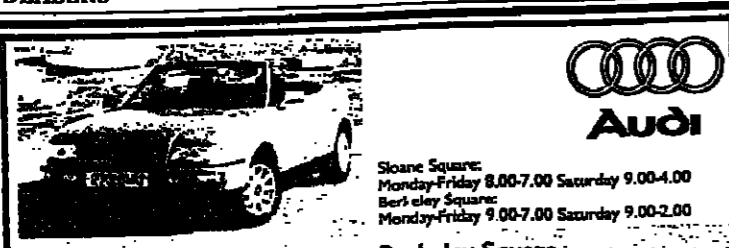








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MG

MG MGF, MG ZT... MG MGF, MG ZT...

MITSUBISHI

Mitsubishi L200, Pajero... Mitsubishi L200, Pajero...

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

Registration numbers... Registration numbers...

MARKET RESEARCH

Table with columns for car models and prices.

BUY WITH CONFIDENCE FROM DVLA

Buy with confidence from DVLA... Buy with confidence from DVLA...

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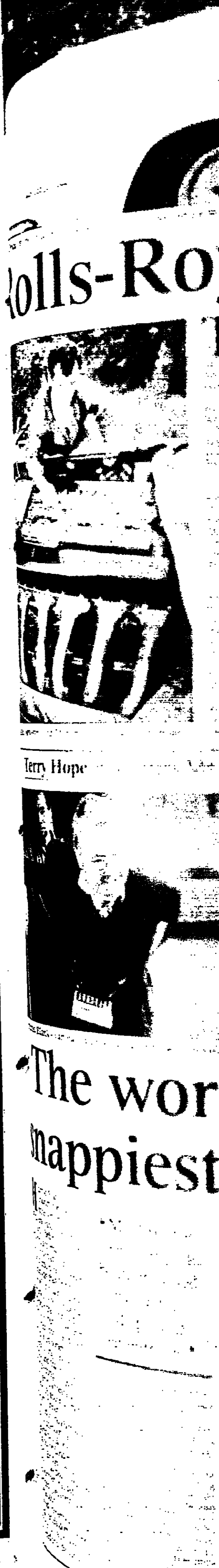
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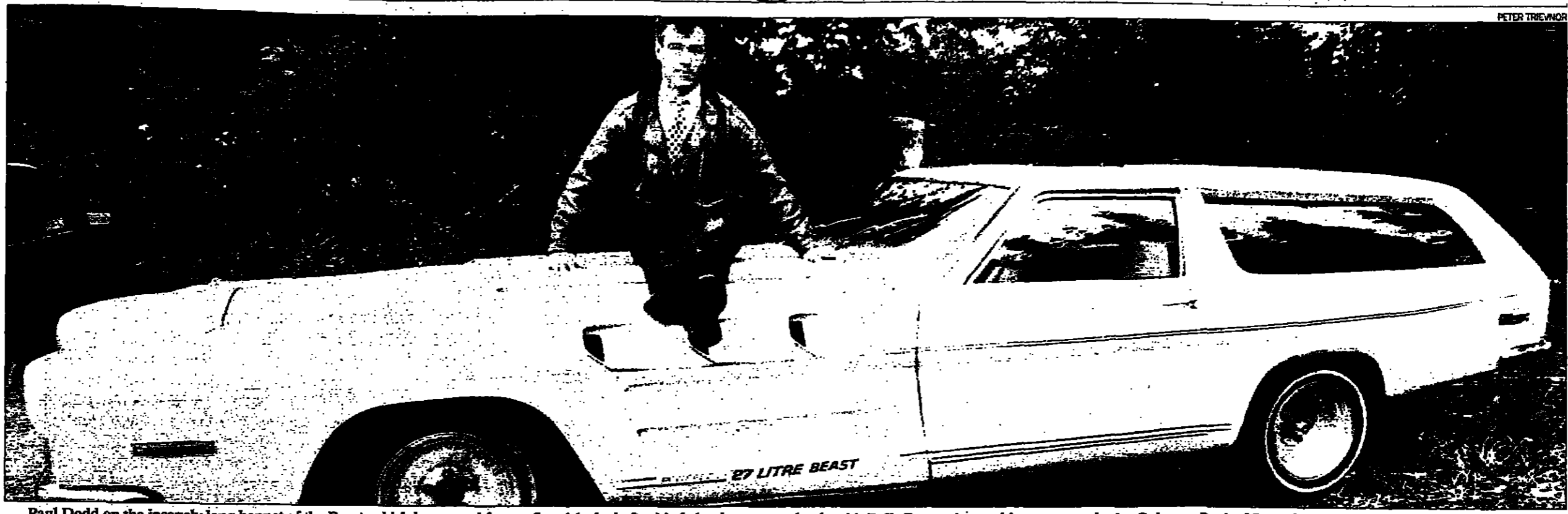
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هكذا من زلازل



Paul Dodd on the insanely long bonnet of the Beast, which he rescued from a Spanish shed after his father lost a court battle with Rolls-Royce: the machine was once in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's most powerful road car

# Rolls-Royce's 200mph comeback



Truck-like, low-revving Merlin is hardly a sporty motor

The Rolls-Royce Merlin engine lurking in this car once powered a Boulton Paul Balliol training aircraft and developed 1,262bhp at 8,500ft. Here, minus a supercharger, it develops about 850bhp at 3ft. If the engine's name is familiar, that is because it powered the RAF's Spitfire and Hurricane fighters in the Battle of Britain.

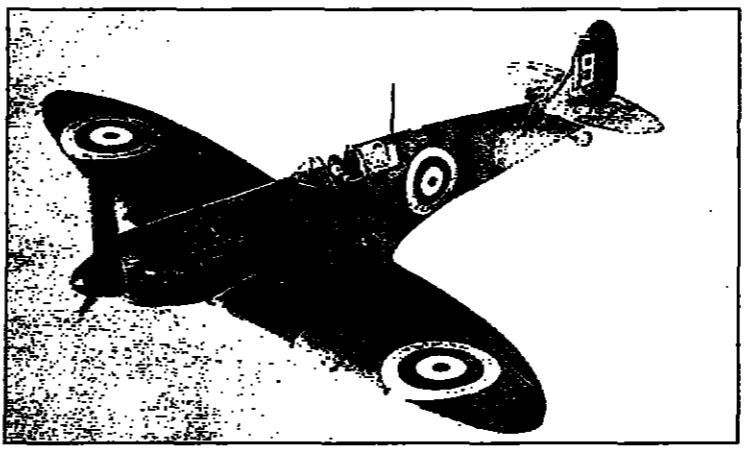
The car's owner, Paul Dodd, remained surprisingly calm as I pushed the accelerator swiftly to the floor as we pulled off a streaming wet roundabout in Epsom.

There was an ear-shattering roar. Birds lifted off from the racecourse two miles away. At tickover, the car was deafening: now it was loud enough to cause a personality disorder. Each of the Merlin's 12 cylinders has a volume of 2.25 litres, more than the entire engine capacity of most family cars. That adds up to 27 litres.

Of course the wheels spun. There was a languid sideways drift, caught by a small application of opposite lock through the painfully heavy steering (there is no power assistance and 1½ tons of engine hangs over the front wheels), at which point I became afraid and backed off. The Merlin returned to its normal thrashing cacophony, all gears and valves.

"It's taken 15 years, but I've finally done it. I've brought it back to England," Paul smiles as he pats the raised bonnet of his 200mph super-

**Bill Thomas bravely samples the mind-shattering power of a Spitfire-engined special that adds the magic of the wartime Merlin motor to a distinctly strange-looking road-legal hatchback**



Rolls-Royce's Merlin: built for Spitfires rather than one-off saloons

car, known affectionately as the Beast, and gazes at the dark grey Merlin engine within.

We had survived our brief performance test and were now parked near Epsom racecourse. Cars slowed down to a crawl as their occupants stared dumbfounded at the huge, cream-coloured machine, trying to make sense of the mile-long bonnet,

the speed limit-free autobahns of Germany, where it would cruise comfortably at 200mph. Vanquished local Porsche drivers began phoning Rolls-Royce to ask where they could buy the car. Rolls-Royce eventually sued, and after losing his much-publicised case, John retired to Spain in 1982, taking the car with him and storing it in a shed. Paul has aimed to bring it back ever since.

"It's been a dream of mine, but for one reason or another I haven't been able to do it until now. The engine needed a complete rebuild, but otherwise the car was fine.

"It is completely road-legal," he says. "It wouldn't pass the emissions test as a modern car, but because of its age it doesn't need to."

The Merlin is mounted on an enormously strong, custom-made steel chassis. The engine sits backwards, with the driveshaft — which would normally spin the propeller — attached to an American GM 400 automatic gearbox, much-loved in the world of muscle cars and dragsters. The bodywork is glass-fibre, styled and built by John.

One would imagine a Spitfire fighter to be a revvy machine, like a small sports car, but it is not the case. Despite its four valves per cylinder, the Merlin is a lugger, and develops its peak power at a lazy 2,800rpm. Top gear is therefore very high.

This gives a strange impression from the driver's seat, with speed building steadily rather than in the explosive rush you might expect of 800bhp. One gets the impression, though, that top-gear acceleration would never end.

"It doesn't," says Paul. "I've had it up to 170mph at an airfield but I ran out of runway. I don't know why, but at 150mph it starts to shake and rattle so much that you can't see."

This is not a situation I am keen to experience, having been scared stupid at 40mph. But Paul seems nonplussed about the performance. For him, 27-litre Merlin power is perfectly natural, and the roaring Beast is a friend, not an enemy — until he comes to refuel it. In gentle driving, the car achieves less than 10mpg.

Paul smiles as he talks about the other magnificent engines he has in his collection, including a twin-supercharged Rolls-Royce Griffon of 37-litre capacity, lifted from a late-model Spitfire. If someone came along with the right amount of money, Paul would gladly build a car to take it. And how much power does the Griffon develop? "2,050bhp," he says, eyes gleaming.

## Terry Hope encounters Mr Blank's amazing photographic truck in London and asks: is it art or simply a mickey-take?



Captured: Blank's van has three working cameras to record the conduct of passers-by

# The world's snappiest van

Harrod Blank, in this country for the first time with his amazing camera van, is a gift to those who believe that all Americans are crazy.

But maybe there is more to this man and his snapper-festooned van than first meets the eye. His mission is apparently serious — to visit Britain to celebrate the Year of Photography — but nevertheless one suspects that the mickey is being taken somehow.

There is only one way to find out, and that is to take a ride in the thing, to experience the impact its appearance has on a British audience trained in the art of reserve.

I arrived to find Harrod the centre of attention, both welcome and unwelcome, at our rendezvous on London's Westminster Bridge. While the tourists gawped, Harrod found himself hassled by a uniformed jobsworth about his behaviour.

Harrod nevertheless persuaded officialdom's representative to wait while he clambered on to the van's roof

**'Most people seem happy to be interrupted by such a display of eccentricity'**

to pose for a quick picture. Then it was off into the maelstrom of London's traffic, complete with catcalls, incredulous double-takers and a cacophony of cheery cockney greetings.

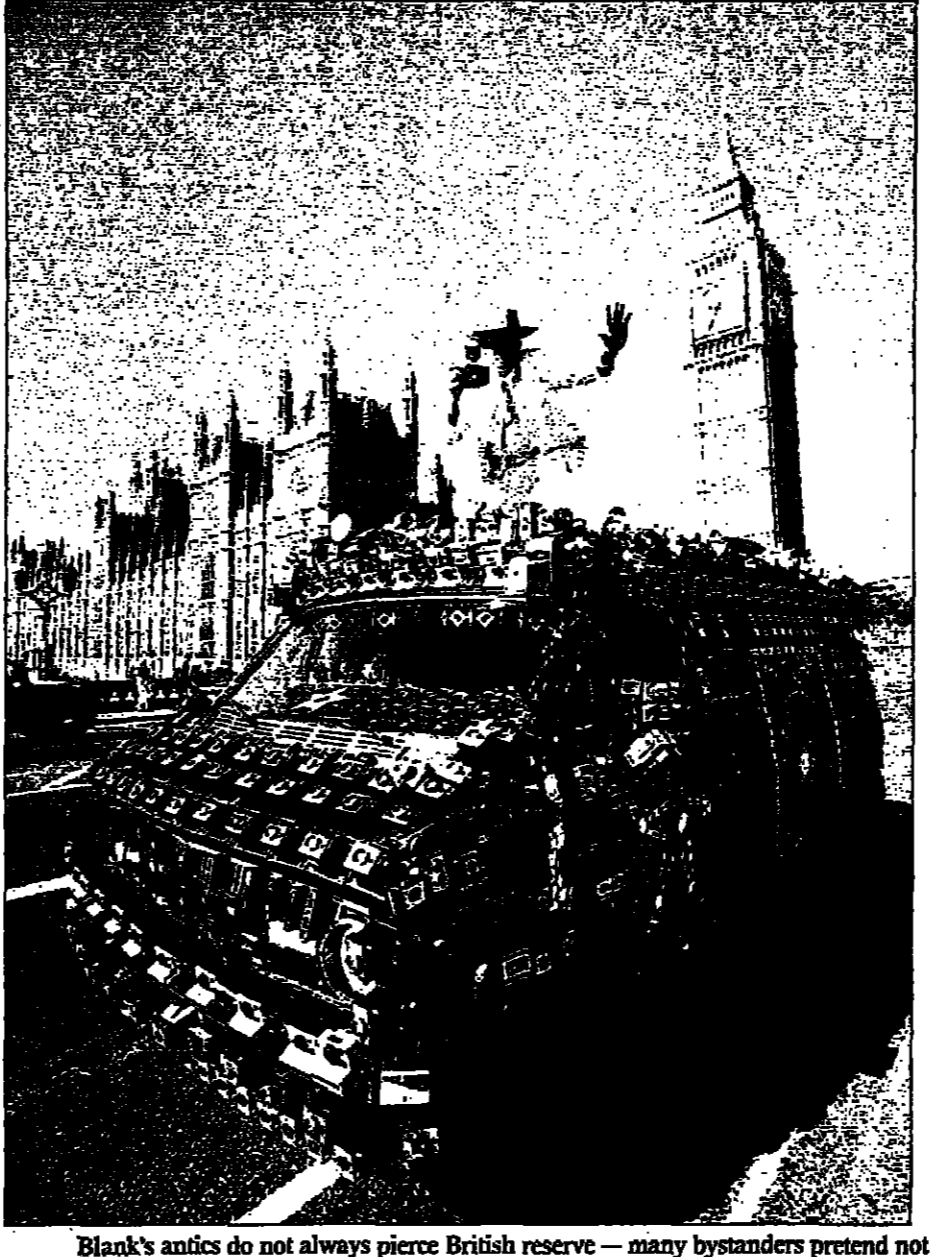
Thirty-five-year-old Harrod is a veteran of a flourishing and outlandish American art-car scene. This is his second, and most ambitious, conversion to date. His first, a multi-coloured VW Beetle with a television and mailbox on the roof and an inflatable globe on the bonnet, had provoked extreme reactions from passers-by, and he longed for

some way to capture on film the astonishment the vehicle caused. In 1993, the answer came to him in a dream.

"It was a weird dream," he acknowledges. "But the answer was there. If I covered a van in cameras, people would be attracted to it, and would almost expect to be photographed. Most of the cameras would be just for show, but I'd arrange a few working models around the vehicle and wire them up so that I could fire them from a control box near the driving seat."

Harrod bought a 1972 Dodge Van for \$500 and spent two years bolting on to it every camera, flashgun and exposure meter he could lay his hands on, most of them acquisitions from thrift stores.

Now he reckons the camera van is worth around \$100,000, though it is insured for just \$500. "I don't think anyone who stole it would get too far," he says. Wrecking the thing is always possible, however, something nearly achieved when Harrod hit a deer in Texas.



Blank's antics do not always pierce British reserve — many bystanders pretend not to have seen him, though others are clearly amazed

"It took 36 cameras off the front bumper," he recalls.

London's traffic probably holds more dangers than the Texas landscape, especially as Harrod has a habit of jamming on his brakes in mid-traffic when he catches sight of an interesting face, and conducts a loudspeaker-assisted conversation with his subject.

He remains oblivious to the sound of angry horns and foul language around him, while he exhorts all and sundry to "Say cheese!"

Still, the van attracts more

smiles than frowns, and most people seem delighted to have their day interrupted by such eccentricity.

When the mood needs lighting at Tower Bridge, soothing Hawaiian music goes out over the speakers, and even officialdom seems inclined to turn a blind eye. Which, considering that one suspects the camera van possibly contravenes every traffic and parking regulation known to man, is for the best.

Harrod and his van have been touring the UK, taking

in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and Bristol. The pictures taken are peculiarly British: "There's a British no-look look," explains Harrod. "They see the van and don't want to know it exists. A picture of someone pretending not to look isn't very interesting."

On the other hand, there are also people here who are amazed when they see the vehicle, while in the States they have seen so many weird things it doesn't faze them.

"I've found everyone much



friendlier here. In the US the police would like to run me in on a regular basis, but the cameras put them off. Since the Rodney King business, they don't want their attitude captured on film."

The pictures from Harrod's UK tour, blown up on to 20x30ft boards, have already had a one-night showing in London, and he is looking for a venue for a long-term show. After that, he is taking his van on tour, visiting France and Spain, then possibly Russia or Japan, to gauge the reactions of innocent bystanders there.

They won't know what's hit them — literally, one suspects, if Harrod continues to mix driving with photography.

But it would at least be a well-documented demise and, if my experience around London is a guide, the victims would be smiling at the time.

Harrod Blank is now looking for European cameras to fix to his van. Anyone willing to donate a clapped-out classic can contact him on e-mail, at: [excentrik@aol.com](mailto:excentrik@aol.com)

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FIG. 1. CLEARING OBSTACLES



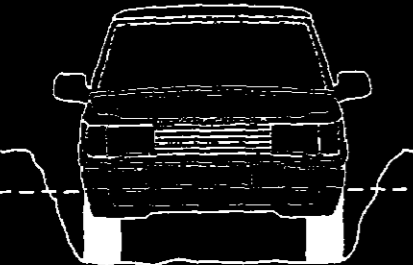
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FIG. 2. RAMP ANGLE



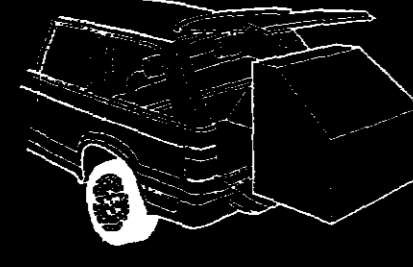
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Table listing various car models and prices under the OTTONS brand.

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Table listing car models and prices: SEB METRASHIP SHOGUN 2.0 TD, etc.

White Dove

Table listing car models and prices under the White Dove brand.

CLASSIC CARS

NOT THE NEW AUSTIN HEALEY 3000 IT'S THE MAGNIFICENT NEW HMC MK IV. HMC logo and contact info.

RANGE ROVER

2.5 TD, 3.0 Diesel, 4.6 HSE, etc. Various models and prices.

LAND ROVER

DISCOVERY, DEFENDER, etc. Various models and prices.

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE

ADVENTURE JOURNEYS LTD

Family Leisure Forest Safari Driving Days. Challenging, Exciting, a Pleasure to Drive.

MIDGLEY MOTOR CARS

Table listing car models and prices: SEB METRASHIP SHOGUN 2.0 TD, etc.

White Dove

Table listing car models and prices under the White Dove brand.

CLASSIC CARS

NOT THE NEW AUSTIN HEALEY 3000 IT'S THE MAGNIFICENT NEW HMC MK IV. HMC logo and contact info.

MORGAN

4/4 9000cc, 1200cc, etc. Various models and prices.

NISSAN

2.0, 2.5, 3.0, etc. Various models and prices.

PERFORMANCE CARS

AMC, BMW, etc. Various models and prices.

PORSCHE

911, 917, etc. Various models and prices.

RENAULT

SCENIC, etc. Various models and prices.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

Various models and prices.

TOYOTA

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SUBARU

Impreza, etc. Various models and prices.

TOYOTA

Various models and prices.

TOYOTA

Various models and prices.

TOYOTA

Various models and prices.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

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Spotter's holiday



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go

The sunshine brings Britain's exotic species out on to the roads — the spin-doctor, the great navigator, the squawker and the Saddam Hussein

# Spotter's guide to holiday drivers

**W**e are barely halfway through the busiest holiday month of the summer and already this column's network of driver-ologists has been out with its cameras, binoculars and smartly engraved *Driven to Distraction* water-resistant, spiral-bound notebooks, spotting exotic examples of the many varieties that add so much to the colour and gaiety of the typical British resort.

One of the joys of wandering the beachtop car parks, clogged alleyways and crumbling pavements of our resorts is to notice the number of car drivers who behave in ways that we all consider utterly ludicrous, except of course when we are doing it ourselves.

One driver's pavement is another driver's parking space. It might, indeed, be the same driver's car parking space in *extremis*, such as

## DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

when a rear-seat child stops crying for long enough to point at a shop and shout "Ice-cream!" But there is no question that certain high-profile types with fixed behavioural tendencies migrate to the coast at this time every year. Some can be spotted en route.

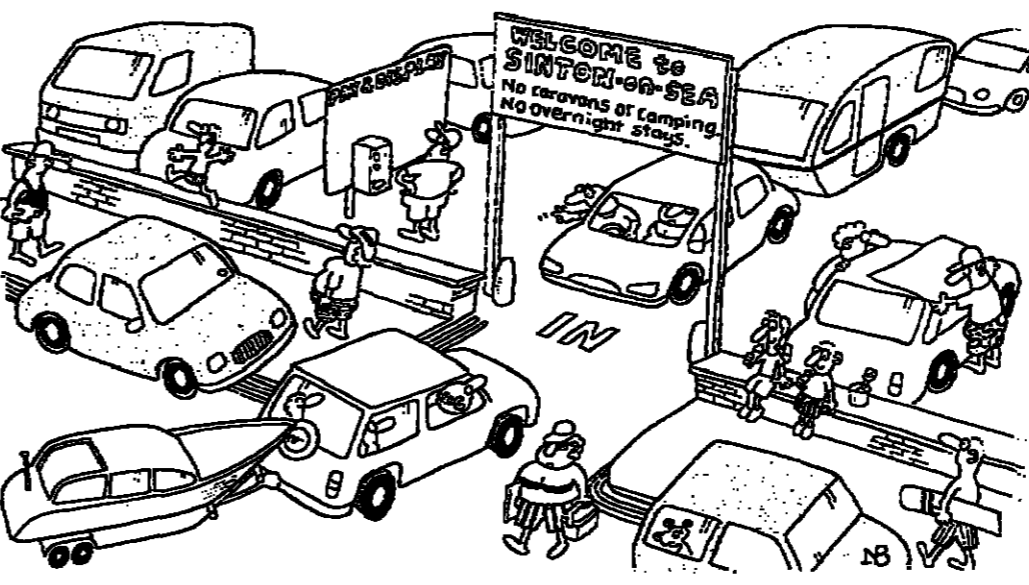
Jules Verne Knew My Great-

Grandfather: This example is especially prevalent in lay-bys and in the car parks of motorway service areas. The space on top of his dashboard has a compass fixed by one of those damned rubber things that works loose periodically.

He can also be identified by the map spread out on his car's roof and the circle of admirers listening as he dispenses the wisdom of years spent bypassing one traffic jam in order to join another one.

The Jules Verne is famous for his snort of disdain, which he uses to stifle the weak and inexperienced who might have the temerity to suggest, for example, using the Exeter-Honiton stretch of the A30.

"Hah!" The loud snort, followed by a long and pitying cackle, precedes a discourse on what happened on this road four years ago when a trailer containing eight tonnes of hay tipped over in front



Cheer up. Try the rear-view mirror: yes, that's him.

The Ruddy-faced Yelper: this creature has a cry that it only emits when faced with the price-board beside pay-and-display machines in short-term car parks. The Yelper approaches the board, groping for change in the pockets of a pair of shorts that have not flattered him for some years, stops suddenly in front of the board and cries: "Sixty pence! Sixty pence!"

A Yelper is distinguished by excellent powers of observation and a phenomenal, if selective, memory. He will spot, for example, that 60p has been pasted over the (smaller) winter charge, thus giving rise to his subsidiary call: "Bloody disgrace! Bloody disgrace!" The Yelper can even recall the time, several centuries ago, when he could park here for nothing. But he has completely forgotten that back where he lives, it costs £1 to park for five minutes.

The Saddam Hussein: This individual is characterised by an invasive attitude to the parking space next door. He can occupy one bay and just enough of the next one to prevent anything wider than a bicycle getting into it.

Warning: he can become aggressive if his vehicular installations are subjected to critical inspection.

of six Centurion tanks on their way to Salisbury Plain and delayed the Jules Verne and his family for three days.

The Peter Mandelson: Every car journey to the coast involves the risk of meeting this infuriating creature, the spin-doctor of road travel. For the Mandelson, there is no such thing as a fraught car journey. Unlike the Jules Verne, who

actively seeks chaos for adventure, as he would see it, the Mandelson looks at a bed of nails and sees a bed of roses. The Mandelson can leave Birmingham at 5pm on a Friday having booked dinner for 8pm the same night at one of Rick Stein's restaurants in Padstow, certain in the knowledge that he will be there.

This would not bother you but

for one thing: he has told you that he will be there and you are making the same journey. Oh dear.

Your entire family has heard what the Mandelson said and you are expected to enfold him. At 8pm you are stuck on the M5 south of Bristol, feeling even more miserable because you know the damned Mandelson is sitting down to fillet of bass in Padstow.



Young Lord Lichfield with the BMW in the Seventies

# Lord, my bike's had one regal owner

**L**ord Lichfield, the renowned photographer, bon vivant and cousin to the Queen, has something in common with butcher Paul Moore, purveyor of fine meats to the discerning shoppers of Bacup, Lancashire. They share a love of bikes in general and of one BMW R90S in particular.

Few things are better than motorbikes for uniting people from varied backgrounds. As the 5th Earl of Lichfield, the Beemer's first owner, sits and chats to Moore, its latest owner, that adage certainly rings true.

Their meeting at the earl's residence, 16th-century Shugborough Hall near Milford in rural Staffordshire, came after Moore discovered the illustrious identity of his bike's previous owner and decided to offer Lord Lichfield the chance to be reunited with the bike.

When Moore saw the R90S in the local paper last summer, he never imagined that buying it would lead to a close encounter with the aristocracy. It had been partly restored by its previous owner but Moore was not happy with it.

"It had a naff seat and although some stuff had been restored, it was still covered in rusty fasteners," he says.

"My friend put in a lot of work to bring the bike back to standard. A lot of it was putting right the previous owner's mistakes."

Out of curiosity, Moore contacted the DVLA for a list of previous owners. At the top was the Earl of Lichfield. He had bought the bike in 1974.

The earl recalls: "I had been doing advertising photography for BMW cars, working around their showroom in Park Lane, London. They always had bikes in the window and one day a guy came in with a demonstration R90S.

"They said I could take it away for the weekend but asked if I could get some good advertising pictures out of it. I got a very pretty girl who could ride a bike and shot her at a very slow shutter speed with flash. Over the weekend I fell in love with the bike. I had had a CB450 Honda before it and compared to that it seemed wonderfully smooth."

Lord Lichfield looks the epitome of smooth as he hosts his immaculately pressed slacks

**Lord Lichfield and butcher Paul Moore have a common love: an ageing BMW they both bought, says Mick Phillips**



Nostalgic ride through the estate 20 years later for the earl

and sits on the Beemer for the first time in more than 20 years. Shugborough Hall is open to the public, and middle-aged women in floral dresses can't quite believe their eyes, and their luck, to see the man himself talking to a couple of leather-clad bikers.

Chatting is fine, but like the true biker he is, the earl can't resist a blast, and Moore is only too happy to oblige. The off of a helmet is shunned (one of the advantages of living on a private estate) and the whopping Havana cigar is put aside on the hall's steps. After a press of manicured thumb on the starter, a delicate Italian loafer presses the gear lever and he is away. After a re-



Biker chat: Lord Lichfield with new owner, Paul Moore

strained 20 yards while he clears the gravel, the earl thrashes off along an estate road. "Bloody hell. He's enjoying himself," says Moore.

After ten minutes he is back, wavy grey coiffeur rakishly windswept. "What a horrible footbrake. I couldn't find it. But it's wonderful. Once you get it up to cruising it's just fine. It took a few hundred yards to get used to, but it was terrific across the grass too."

"It's no slouch is it?" says Moore, brimming with pride.

"No. But it feels ponderous. I went straight from this to really high-revving Kawasakis and now back to Triumphs and you really do feel the character with these things."

**'The earl remembers losing a contact lens riding the bike too quickly in the dark'**

"I think this is the only one of my bikes I never fell off. I do remember losing a contact lens going much too quick in the dark and wet. I've only got one good eye and I was completely blind," he laughs.

The two men retire to the hall's steps to talk bikes. "I like the way certain things become icons," says the earl. "You wouldn't say this is the most beautiful piece of machinery, but it's become a classic. Why is that, do you think?"

"Because it's an R90S," says Moore. "They're revered. It's the BMW to have. What made you sell it?"

"I became a father and thought I ought to be more responsible. Now my children are grown-up I've decided to be irresponsible again. I'm 59 and a lot of my friends think I'm completely mad, but I can still have enormous fun on a motorbike in 15 minutes without breaking any laws at all. You can't do that in a car."

Sitting there chatting like a couple of old mates, the pair might easily be at Box Hill or the Acc Cafe. And that thorny word "class" is mentioned only when agreeing on the undoubted status of one very special R90S parked before them.

◆ This article appears in the current issue of *Classic Bike*

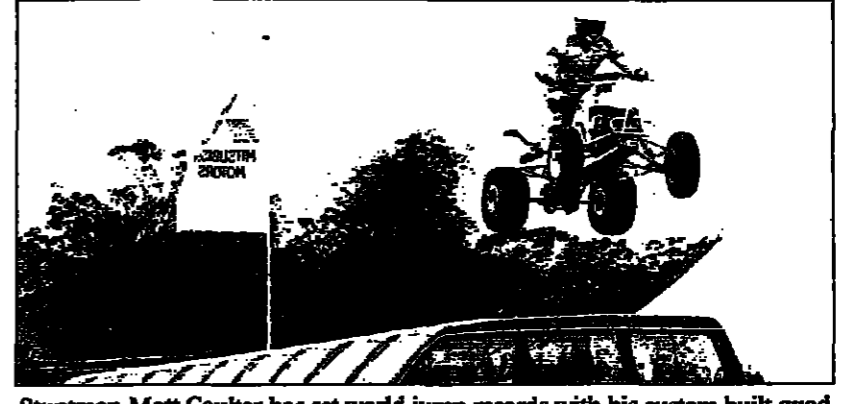
# For fun, join the quad squad

**Vaughan Freeman says ATVs are the only laugh left on wheels**

**H**aving motoring fun on today's congested roads is like smiling while paying income tax — it cannot be done. Chasing this impossible dream leads to many buying a natty two-seat sports car, or becoming a forty-something born-again motorcyclist.

The sports car fantasy is, in reality, a car that sits at truck exhaust-height in traffic jams, while accident rates are soaring among older bikers who have bought a two-wheeler after decades of family estates and saloons. The answer for those who long for the fun of a motorbike that feels as safe as a car, or the buzz of a sportscar that handles like a motorbike, is the All Terrain Vehicle or quad bike.

The quad bike is much maligned. The actor and comedian Rik Mayall suffered horrendous injuries, from which he is now recovering, after an accident on his machine — and it is said to be a favourite with thieves. Yet Honda alone sold almost 3,000 in the UK last year. Britons buy some 6,000 a year, more than half of all ATVs sold in Europe. They have become, says Honda's Lawrence Pearce, "some-



Stuntman Matt Coulter has set world jump records with his custom-built quad

thing of a British phenomenon". Farmers love them as mechanised beasts of burden and corporate hospitality organisers buy them to entertain executives bored with their limousines and Harley-Davidsons.

These four-wheel "bikes" boast all-wheel drive, engines from 250cc to 430cc, awesome abilities in mud and off-road, and are child's play to drive. The throttle is a small lever pushed by the thumb, and the clutch-free gearchange can be operated by hand or by foot.

Safety is a priority, and the machines are plastered with stickers warning of death and injury if not treated with respect. Motorcycling gloves and helmet are a necessity, as is a clear stretch of grass, mud or forest. As you crawl up muddy slopes, splash through flooded fields, pick your way along designated forest track, a strange sensation begins to dawn, you are having fun being on the move.

The stuntman Matt Coulter has even set world records leaping his specially built quad bike over parked vehicles and flying aeroplanes, but the quad bike rider does not have to go to such extremes.

For wheeled thrills, the quad bike could well be the automotive Viagra of its age.

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Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by category such as 'ASSET MANAGEMENT', 'GLOBAL INVESTMENT', 'MONEY MARKET', etc. Each entry includes the fund name, price, and other financial details.

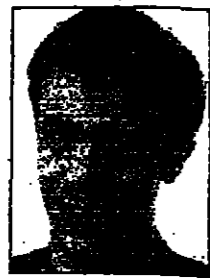
INVESTORS CHRONICLE if you're so inclined. Includes a line graph showing an upward trend and a signature.

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**ROOM AT THE TOP 54**

Best ways to pay for accommodation at university

# WEEKEND MONEY

**CAPS ARE BACK 54**

The return of a popular home loan product



## Family fortunes

**D**on Herold, the writer, observed that "babies are such a nice way to start people" - nice but costly, at least if you are determined to take advantage of all the myriad goods and services offered to prospective parents.

Babies are a growth market. Even before their tiny feet have pattered, you can have invested a sizeable amount of money in pre-natal care, fitting out the nursery and piling up those tiny clothes with remarkably grown up price tags.

While there are plenty of parents who refuse to get swept up by the trend of conspicuous spending on babies and children, for those who insist on the best or who regard childrearing as a socially competitive activity, the opportunities to spend lavishly are legion and start from the first days of pregnancy.

When it comes to giving birth, do not expect your health insurance to book you a room in the nearest private hospital. Private medical insurance is only likely to cover exceptional circumstances. Bupa, for example, says that if there is a clinical reason for a Caesarian, then it can be done privately. In addition if a policyholder is having a baby in an NHS hospital and complications occur, it may be possible for them to be moved to a private room or to the nearest Bupa hospital.

Ante natal care and preparation can be as diverse and as expensive as you want - a team of personal nutritionists and therapists on

**Clare Stewart calculates the rising cost of experiencing the joys of parenthood**

hand to ensure your wellbeing, or a few sessions at the local swimming pool and some yoga classes in the church hall.

If you choose to see an obstetrician privately from the earliest stages of pregnancy, then each consultation can set you back around £100. Prospective mothers are advised to consult their GPs who can recommend an obstetrician locally who has a private practice.

For those who want to book the whole package privately, leading private centres such as the Portland Hospital in London advise parents to expect to pay a minimum of £5,000.

After the happy event, you might be inclined to employ a maternity nurse to see you through the first tentative days or weeks. A maternity nurse on call might cost you £500 a week, less outside the capital and South East.

When it comes to hiring a nanny, salaries are also highest in London and the South East. You can expect to pay upwards of £250 a week, exclusive of employer's tax and national insurance, for a live-in nanny in London. For a live-in nanny expect to pay upwards of £150. By comparison the Emergen-

cy Mums agency in Edinburgh quotes an average salary of £170 to £180 a week for live-out nannies, and £120 to £150 for those living with the family, again exclusive of tax and insurance.

Reputable nanny agencies place nannies who have an NNEB (National Nursery Examination Board) qualification or an HNC or BTEC equivalent. Nannies without specific qualifications but with considerable experience and good references are also placed by agencies.

**F**or the social cachet of employing one of the distinctively uniformed Norland Nannies, widely regarded as the archetypal English nanny, expect to pay £250 to £550 a week in London and the South East on a live-in basis, and upwards of £350 a week living out.

Good quality childcare is expensive, and while employing a nanny or sending a child to a day nursery may allow a mother to continue her career, parents have to do the sums very carefully when working out what several children are likely to cost.

It is worth checking whether your own private medical insur-

ance can be extended to cover children. Bupa, for example, offers family cover for all children up to the age of 21, or 24 if in full-time education, under its Bupa Care policy. For a family where the oldest partner is aged between 35 and 39, the cost is £119 a month.

If you are determined that your child has an impressive education, then you need to plan ahead. Registering at birth for a prestigious school no longer guarantees a place. Competition starts early and entry is increasingly dependent on passing exams and interviews.

Isis, the Independent Schools Information Service, which has 1,300 schools as members, says that the sector seeing the most expansion is the two to four age group.

Montessori schools are popular with parents looking to give their children a stimulating education from the earliest stages. The majority of Montessori schools in the UK take pupils from the ages of two to six, though some do cater for older children.

The Montessori method, says Lynne Lawrence, a council member of Montessori Education (UK), aims to guide and encourage children on an individual basis, encouraging their sensory perception to help them to absorb and understand information as well as teaching literacy and numeracy skills.

You might expect to pay £550 to £650 for a 12-week term, mornings only, in London and the South East, less elsewhere in the UK. Montessori Education offers parents guidance on what to look for when choosing a Montessori school (0181-946 4433).

Fees for other private schools also vary regionally. Isis quotes a range of £600 to £1,100 per term for prep schools, covering the ages of two to seven. For prep schools, taking pupils aged seven to 13, expect to pay £950 to £2,500 a term for day pupils and £2,300 to £3,500 for boarders. For senior schools fees per term for day pupils range from £1,300 to £3,200. For boarders they range from £2,700 to £4,600.

On top of these not inconsiderable amounts, do not forget the many extras that may have to be added on - private tuition to learn the French horn, football kits and the ever more exotic school trips now offered to pupils.



PETER TRIEVNIKOR

Taking it easy: baby Sam could not care less how much he has cost his parents Lucy and Matt Allen

## Losing a salary is a shock

**Y**ou can spend a fortune as babies could be an endless money pit, says Lucy Allen, 30, who had her first child Sam, in May. "We didn't sit down and work out what it would all cost," says Mrs Allen, who lives in Surrey with her husband Matt, 32. In need of guidance as to what to buy, she was grateful for the advice of a friend who had just had a baby. "She took me to Mothercare and told me what was worth having which was a tremendous help. We bought electrical goods new, also a car seat which cost about £70 but

which has to be new in case it's been in an accident. But we also decided to buy a number of things secondhand, such as a pram for £85 rather than nearer £300 new. We have hardly used it as it's too bulky," says Mrs Allen. They also bought a second-hand cot for £30 and added a new mattress. "We also borrowed a number of things that we wouldn't need for a while, such as a Moses basket and a bouncy chair." Lucy and Matt were also given a lot of clothes and toys as presents, as well as second-hand clothes from friends whose

children had outgrown them. Mrs Allen reckons that they have spent about £1,000 so far, on big items: toys and day to day needs such as nappies, toiletries and food. "Probably the biggest initial shock is losing one salary, so perhaps the ongoing cost has not really hit us yet," says Mrs Allen, who is on maternity leave from her job as an account manager in a London advertising agency. "We didn't work out all the costs - we knew we wanted to have a baby, and that we would cope whatever," she adds.

**PARENTS** who are already know full well the expense of children are constantly reminded of the sums involved by frequent surveys. The average total of the most recent studies into the vital cost-of-children question is £50,000 to £60,000 from cradle to college. This excludes school fees but includes items such as the higher mortgage payments that arise when the family moves to a larger home (Anne Ashworth writes).

The State's modest contribution to this spending spree is child benefit of £11.45 a week for the first child and £9.30 for each subsequent child.

As announced in this year's Budget, the child benefit payment to the first child will rise by £2.50 a week by April 1999. By that time, however, the Government may have announced its plans to make

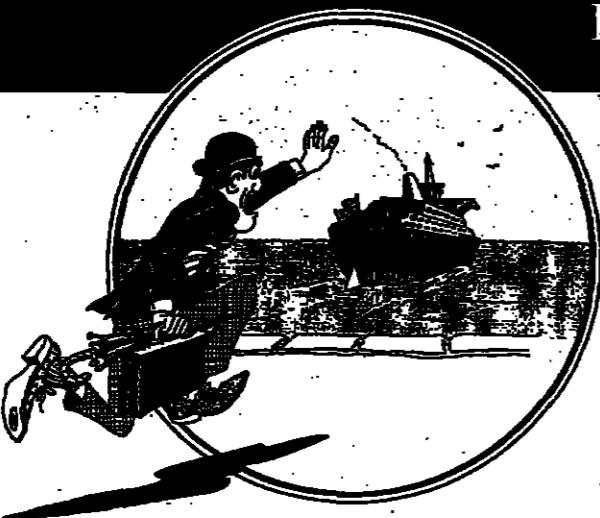
child benefit taxable in the hands of higher rate taxpayers. This measure could be accompanied by a more significant increase in the child benefit paid to those on low incomes.

Another move to help the low paid will follow the child benefit changes. In October 1999 family credit will be replaced by the working families tax credit, a tax refund. At present, family credit is paid direct to mothers. While the Government has pledged that there will be no redistribution of money between spouses, this may not be so in practice.

Accompanying the working families tax credit will be another tax credit for child care. This will provide £100-a-week for the first child and £150-a-week for two children, cared for in day nurseries or by childminders.

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# Too many chefs spoil APR

Recipes work best when followed to the letter. Flout the orders of Delia Smith or the River Café chefs and the outcome will be unappetising unless you are an Escoffier in the kitchen. The calculation of an annual percentage rate (APR) has become a recipe everyone has felt entitled to interpret at will, changing ingredients and adding their own dash of creativity.

For consumers, the result may sometimes seem irresistible — cheap and wholesome. But one mouthful proves that appearances can be deceiving. The purpose of the APR (syn. "true rate") is to allow borrowers to compare the costs of different types of loan. It may help you to choose between personal loans. But it would not permit you to weigh the merits of a credit or store card against an overdraft, as banks may omit some extra charges imposed on those who go into the red.

The Government has this week finally announced that it intends to reform the APR to make it easier for borrowers to assess loan offers throughout Europe. Most would be grateful merely for a figure that helped them to differentiate between two fixed-rate mortgages advertised on the same high street. For, in another anomaly, some lenders calculate fixed-rate APRs as if the discount applied for the whole of the loan.

Those creating the new-style APR should not only curb such flights of fancy among lenders. They must also impose strict guidelines on the date from which interest may be charged, another influence on the APR. Your credit card rate could depend on



COMMENT  
**ANNE ASHWORTH**  
Personal Finance  
Editor

whether interest is payable from the time of the purchase, from the date it appears on your statement, or from a later date. The proposals for change should reflect that many (though they would hate to admit it) have no idea what an APR is. For those confused by percentages, each type of borrowing could also carry another figure showing the cost for each £100 borrowed, the perfect recipe to make anyone think twice about taking out a loan.

**Bears and cats**  
CONFRONTATIONS between bears and cats do not figure in myth and fable. But contemporary events could provide a cautionary tale featuring these two creatures.

News of the ever more parlous state of the Russian economy has acted as a further depressant to world markets. Already reeling from the effects of the Far East's gloom, the FTSE 100 has faltered under the influence of the Russian Bear, calling into question yet again the Treasury's fondness for the cat.

Only those individual savings accounts (Isas) investing in index-tracker funds will be allowed to carry the Catmark, the Treasury's benchmark of quality. As is evident, many investors will naturally presume that they are safer in a Catmarked fund and be dismayed when its value tumbles. Ministers are said to be preparing to modify the Catmarking rules. The gyrations of the markets provide them with an ideal excuse to reconsider reserving their seal of approval for index funds.

# Getting on the ball

Superleague or not, the football market has to re-emerge from the doldrums this season as the injection of television money increases and the potential for giant riches from digital TV come ever near. But what to buy? After all, there are more than 20 British and European clubs quoted on the market.

The Superleague factor could drive up the price of any of the clubs likely to take part, but in the UK this probably only means Manchester United, Celtic, or Everton, which owns 25 per cent of Rangers, though investors might like to look at Ajax of Amsterdam. Lazio, the only quoted Italian club, might also figure but those shares have been chased upwards by fanatical fans.

Richard Hunter, head of dealing services at NatWest Stockbrokers, recommends Chelsea, Villa, partly because he thinks Chelsea might win the Premiership and partly because of the club's property interests. However, the massive wage bill that Chelsea has taken on from the signing of top European players, including Gianfranco Zola, Marcel Desailly, and Brian Laudrup, will probably drive it into loss and those who know that part of London say Chelsea's location is at the "wrong end" of the Fulham Road.

Mr Hunter might have more luck with his other two recommendations, Sunderland and Leeds Sporting. The latter will probably not do so well with the multimedia interests Mr Hunter admires so much. But it has just kicked



Pierluigi Casiraghi, one of Chelsea's Italian imports who has helped swell the wage bill

out, its chief executive, and there could be some fireworks pushing up the share price. Sunderland is an exceptionally well-supported First Division club that missed out on promotion to the Premiership and could have a good run on the stock market if it has a good run in the league.

However, the real value is in the clubs the market does not like — Aston Villa, Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur. The former two will both be in European competitions

this year, which has not been reflected in their share prices. Also both should do quite well in the Premier League. Management issues have plagued them, though Villa has probably reassured the City that it has a succession ready should Doug Ellis, its 74-year-old chairman, retire. Newcastle, though, might take some time to convince the market that the return of its two disgraced directors will not have an adverse effect on supporters.

Spurs though is the big enigma. It is a top club, though it is being overshadowed by Arsenal, its North London neighbour. Alan Sugar, its chairman, knows how to run a business and Sam Chisholm, who knows a thing or two about pay-per-view television, has just joined the board. The current rating discounts everything but relegation. Surely Spurs cannot perform worse this season than it did last time. Or can it?

JASON NISSÉ

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

A&L teams up for some cub-hunting

Leicester City, the Premier League football club, has teamed up with Alliance & Leicester to launch two new savings accounts. Both the Foxes Saver Account and the Filbert Fox Junior Saver Account, for under-16s, will be available at all branches of the bank.

The Foxes Saver Account, an instant access account, pays 5 per cent on balances under £500. Rates rise in tiers up to 5.75 per cent on savings of more than £10,000.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes Instant Access Accounts, Notice Accounts & Bonds, and First TESSAS (Tax Free).

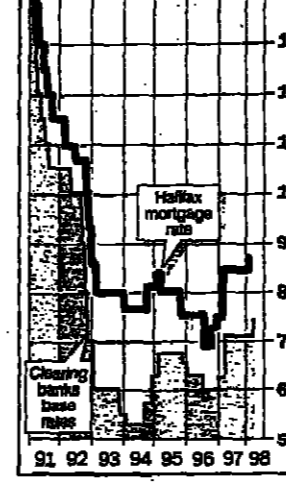
CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

Table with columns: Card type, Interest per month, APR%, Fee per annum. Lists Capital One Bank, RBS Advantage, and National One.

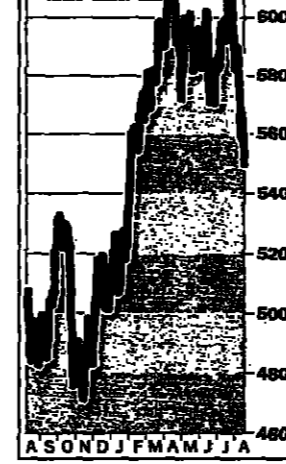
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

Table with columns: Personal Loans, APR, Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance, no insurance. Lists Northern Rock, Prudential Banking, and Direct Line.

BASE RATES V MORTGAGES



FF-SE 100 PRICE INDEX



ANNUITY TABLES

Table showing annuity rates for various products like Ordinary Annuity, Investment Annuity, and First Opt Bond. Columns include Gross rate, All tax rates, Minimum investment, Notice, and Contact.

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)

Table showing single life annuity rates for males and females at ages 60, 65, and 70. Products include Fidelity, Equitable, and Norwich Union.

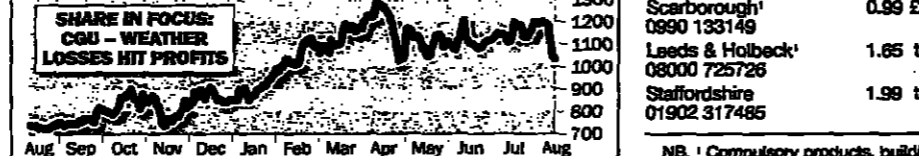
Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Table showing guaranteed income bond rates as of August 13, 1998. Columns include Investment (£), Company, and Standard Rate (%).

PIBS

Table showing PIBS (Permanent Interest Bearing Shares) rates. Columns include Gross coupon, Buying price, Gross yield, Issue price, and Minimum purchase amount.



LARGER DEALERS

Table showing larger dealer mortgage rates. Columns include Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, and Notes.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE

Table listing unit-linked insurance policies from various providers like AEGON, ABNEY LIFE, and ALLIED DU'BAR ASSURANCE.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE

Table listing unit-linked insurance policies from providers like ANGLIA LIFE, ANGLIA MUTUAL, and ANGLIA ASSURANCE.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE

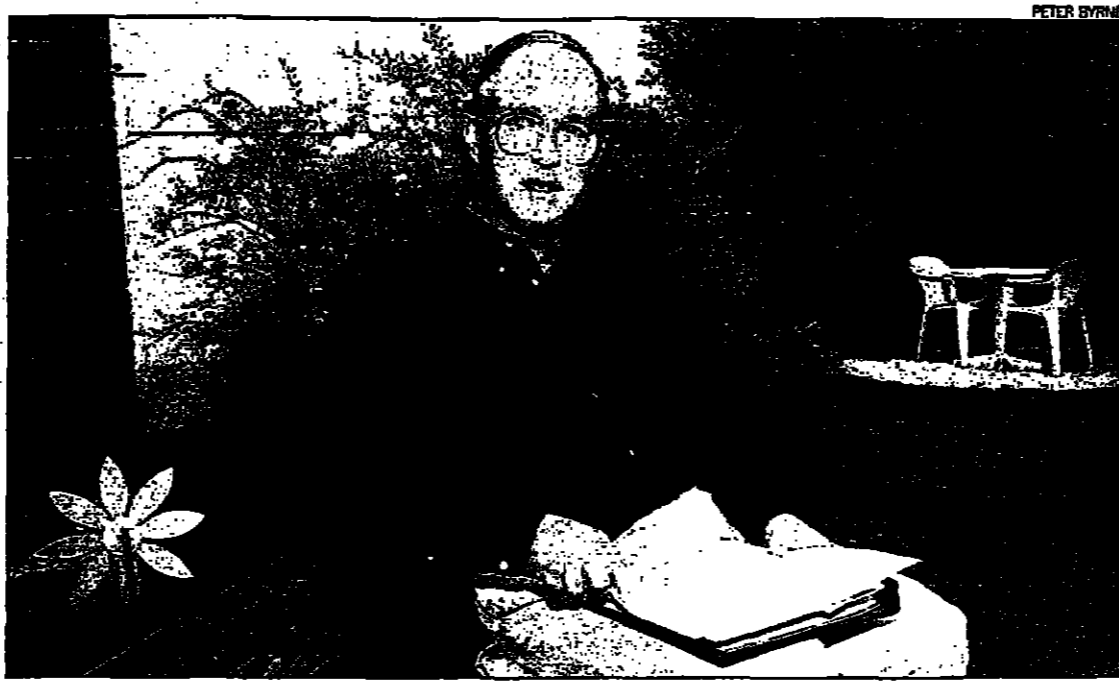
Table listing unit-linked insurance policies from providers like ANGLIA LIFE, ANGLIA MUTUAL, and ANGLIA ASSURANCE.

Large advertisement for Pensions review, featuring a testimonial from Gavin Lumsden and the headline 'Men from the Pru under fire again for mis-selling'.



Gavin Lumsden says the insurer seems unable to control its sales staff

# Men from the Pru under fire again for 'mis-selling'



Former Prudential salesman Peter Parkinson says the company knew of widespread fraud five years ago

The Prudential has once again been proving how difficult it is for a leopard to change its spots. The country's largest insurer was reeling this week after fresh evidence emerged that it was still mis-selling its products to the public.

A "mystery shopping" investigation by a national newspaper alleged Pru salesmen were still recommending unsuitable products in order to generate a high level of commission for themselves at the expense of investors. Journalists posing as freelancers with erratic earnings and £3,000 of savings were advised to buy regular premium plans by Pru salesmen when they would have been better off using their lump sum to buy single premium plans.

However, lump sum investments generate far less commission for salesmen who can claim up to 60 per cent of investors' money in the first few years of a regular premium policy. The investigation also accused Pru staff of using future growth projection figures banned by the Financial Services Act and showing misleading statistics which flattered the company's investment performance.

The Pru hit back, saying that the investigation had only focused on preliminary conversations with its representatives and that no sales had occurred. "We are confident that our compliance system would have picked up any problems if the sale had been followed through. However, we have still not seen the specific allegations yet," a spokesman said.

Nevertheless, the findings were enough for Sir Peter Davis, the company's chief executive, to break off his holiday and return to his office. The crisis is a further humiliation for Sir Peter, who just eight months ago vowed to convert his salesforce from "hunters into farmers" by reducing the amount of commission they could earn. This followed a blistering attack by the Financial Services Authority which accused the Pru of putting its own interests before its customers and of failing to supervise its salesforce. In one of the most damning indictments ever meted out to a City institution, the FSA said the Pru had "a cultural disposition against" complying with rules designed to protect the

public. Only last month Sir Peter received another mauling at the hands of a parliamentary committee over the company's role in the £15 billion pension mis-selling scandal. As the largest offender, the Pru is set to pay at least £1.1 billion in compensation to thousands of victims who were persuaded to take out a personal pension with the company between 1988 and 1994 rather than stay with better-value schemes run by their employers.

MPs were furious as Sir Peter's predecessor, Mick Newmarch, told the same committee four years ago that the Pru had not been involved in

the fiasco. However, some people who know the company well say the problems run far deeper than even these serious events suggest. Peter Parkinson, a former salesman at the company's Wrexham branch, says the insurer was aware of widespread fraud more than five years ago.

He has passed to *The Times* a copy of a warning notice sent by the Pru's head office in July 1993. This states: "Recent branch audits and special investigations in various parts of the country have uncovered evidence of widespread activity intended to deceive customers and the company." It lists seven fraudulent activities - including the forgery of customer signatures, falsification of proposals and di-

rect debits and non-delivery of cancellation notices by customers.

The Pru confirmed the memorandum had been sent but said it had taken action, dismissing 27 sales representatives and three branch managers in March 1994.

This followed a radical restructuring of the salesforce in October 1993 which saw many employees leave the organisation. However, those who remained, like Mr Parkinson, and new recruits were put on new contracts which slashed their basic level of pay and left many in debt to their employer. According to Mr Parkinson this

staff were trained for just one day in the complex area of pensions and were encouraged to cast doubt on the validity of occupational schemes, even though most provided superior benefits to Prudential's products.

"I am not getting at the Pru. It is the whole system. Insurance companies should be made to pay their sales people a proper salary. We also need a public inquiry into the whole pensions scandal so that people can come forward and give evidence without fear," Mr Parkinson said.

A Prudential spokesman said: "Sir Peter Davis has already publicly apol-

## 'Those that stayed were on new, lower-paid contracts'

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### WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

## Pensions review workload will cripple IFAs, not costs

From Lord Blaker  
Sir, I was until last year chairman of a small company of independent financial advisers (IFAs) and was therefore much interested in Caroline Merrell's article in *The Times* of August 4.

In my experience, the concept of polarisation has not been strongly criticised by the IFA sector. Indeed, it is widely supported by IFAs because it makes clear their generally more independent position compared to company representatives or tied agents. This factor is, of course, particular-

ly relevant in the case of an IFA which charges fees instead of commission, which is the practice of my former company and, I understand, of a growing number of IFAs.

My second point is that the most serious threat to the survival of the IFA sector comes not from the cost of compensation, some of which will be met by insurance, but from the colossal burden of work which the proposals for phase 2 of the pensions mis-selling review would impose on IFAs, which would have to examine every pension case between

1988 and 1994 and offer the client the opportunity of calling for a review of his or her case, however unlikely the possibility of the client having suffered loss even to the extent of a penny.

I know of one company, which did not have a single mis-selling case in phase 1, which calculates that it would have to set its whole small staff to work full-time on the review for several months, abandoning all other work, simply to carry out phase 2, though it is probable that the number of mis-selling cases it had would be tiny, if any.

This burden would obviously be more serious for that company than any payment of compensation, but it would, alas, be more serious for most IFAs.

Can the crippling blow which this would cause to the IFA sector really be good for the customers?

Yours faithfully,  
BLAKER,  
House of Lords,  
Westminster,  
London, SW1A 0PW.



## Big charges for small debts

From Mr Walter Weber  
HAVING been a Giro customer for over a quarter of a century, I have just got a letter from the Alliance & Leicester telling me there was not enough in my account to pay a direct debit of £9.24.

In view of the small amount involved, the fee for imparting this information was graciously reduced from £25 to £10.

Strangely, there were sufficient funds for them to pay themselves by debiting this amount to my account on the same day as their letter was

sent. When I receive my next statement, I expect there will also be an unauthorised overdraft charge, plus interest.

Yours faithfully,  
WALTER WEBER,  
Narvik, 5 Stanley Avenue,  
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With the rush for accommodation about to start, Karen Woolfson looks at ways to finance it

**A** growing number of parents are helping their student sons or daughters to buy a property, rather than pay rent to live in substandard accommodation. Many mothers and fathers see the purchase as an investment and a source of extra income, with the rent from their children's flatmates covering the mortgage payments. However, parents should be aware that it can also be a source of conflict.

## Parents' help can make a nice big earner

Patrick Cartwright of London & Country, the mortgage broker, commented: "Never go into business with family because, if things go wrong, people can behave in ways you don't expect."

He adds: "Even if things go according to plan, properties need to be maintained and three years of students living in a place could have a serious effect on the resale value due to deterioration."

In most cases, mortgage lenders will insist that parents buying for their children will act as guarantors for the whole amount of the mortgage. Their son or daughter will collect the rental income and use it to meet the mortgage repayments. However, if they default on the loan, the lender will turn to the parents. If the property were to be repossessed, then the parents would be liable for the arrears and any shortfall between the sale price of the property and the loan.

But these pitfalls can be avoided if both parents and children take action early. You can draw up a formal tenancy

agreement with all occupants of the property. A renewable assured shorthold tenancy with a minimum fixed term of 12 months will allow you to repossess the property if things go seriously wrong.

The trend for rising prices for suitable types of property in university towns shows that many families are not deterred by the potential problems. Graham Dixon, an associate partner at the Exeter branch of Knight Frank, the property specialist, said: "If you buy a house for £70,000 in Exeter, cram it with five or six students, it could prove cost-effective with the rent paying off part or all of the mortgage."

But one advantage of this arrangement is that it will allow you to draw up a tenancy agreement with each tenant, including your child, so if it all turns sour you will be able to repossess the property.

from Nationwide. Cambridge has seen rises of up to 15.2 per cent, bringing the price of a terrace to £99,000. The rise for a terraced property in Bristol has been 16.6 per cent to £67,96 and Greenwich, 22.1 per cent to £96,191.

**LOANS**

The Bank of Scotland operates a special student mortgage scheme where parents need guarantee only 20 per cent. But there is a catch: the parents must transfer their current account to the bank.

The Bank of Scotland scheme allows the mortgage to be held in the student's name, provided he or she is at least 18 years of age. Current deals range between 5.94 per cent and 9.44 per cent.

**TAXATION**

Maurice Parry-Wingsfield, tax consultant at Deloitte Touche, points out that a student householder renting out rooms is exempt from paying tax on rental income up to £4,250, under the rent-a-room-scheme. If the parent puts the property into his or her name, capital gains tax could be payable if it is sold, as only an individual's principal private residence escapes.

# Richard's room at the top



Financial move: student Richard Gray with girlfriend Islay Carter

**R**ichard Gray, a biochemistry student at Edinburgh University, has just bought his first property with a little help from his father. He plans to pick up the keys to his £46,000 two-bedroom flat next week.

He views the purchase of a property as an investment but primarily as a place to live. "I was in halls of residence the whole of my first year and had to move everything out of my room at Easter and over the summer. It was a hassle moving back and forwards from my parents' house in Glasgow. It was very disruptive."

Richard started investigating alternatives with his father, Michael Gray. "Renting a room in a student flat cost between £180 and £225, but it was difficult to find anywhere decent at the lower end of this range."

"The thought of living in an untidy, run-down living space didn't appeal to me, so I started looking at the local property press to find out how much it would cost to buy a home of my own."

Richard was keen to have an asset at the end of his university days rather than pour money down the drain on rent. So he went on a tour of most of the leading high street banks and building societies to look at mortgage packages. "Some of them just didn't want to know. Some of the people we spoke to acted as if they had better things to do than talk about a mortgage for a student with a guarantor."

"It made me angry, I felt insulted. They'll lose out by alienating and rejecting people like myself because in four or five years' time my earnings will be at the higher end of the wage spectrum."

"The Bank of Scotland offered us a 100 per cent endowment mortgage fixed over three years at 8 per cent, as long as Dad agreed to guarantee part of the loan."

Richard will have to pay out a total of £399.61 each month, which includes £280.30 for the endowment and £30 for buildings insurance. However, he plans to rent a room to another student for about £200.

He added: "I'll probably find myself some bar work to finance my other expenses and may rent out my flat during the Edinburgh Festival when I've been told one can charge astronomical prices."

But Richard does have some concerns. "I'll have to work a bit harder and be more careful about spending money now. If I go away over summer I still have to pay the mortgage whereas with renting you're kicked out over summer so there's no rent to pay."

**H**e plans to celebrate when he moves in, but says wild parties are out of the question.

"If we hold a bash it's usually at a pub or a club when we proceed to drink a large amount of alcohol. Students aren't as squallid and unsocial as some people think. I'm house-proud and no one's going to trash my flat."

"I feel excited about moving in and making the place my own. I plan to decorate with a lick of paint, new curtains and replace the lino in the bathroom. My grandparents are going to give me a TV, a coffee table and a chest of drawers. Some furniture has been left in the flat, so I won't have to pay out much to make the place homely."

Source: Standard & Poor's Micropol, offer to bid, net income reinvested to 1/8/98. The tax regime of FEs and ISAs may change, and the value of tax benefits will depend on the individual circumstances of the investor. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up. You may not get back as much as you invest. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. M&G do not offer advice or make any recommendations regarding investment - we only promote the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group, issued by M&G Securities Limited (regulated by the FSA and the Personal Investment Authority), Registered Address: 3 Minster Court, Great Tower Street, London EC3R 7XL. Registered No. 90776.

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## If a cap fits, buy one, they are back in fashion

**C**apped-rate mortgages are becoming fashionable for the first time in years as borrowers wake up to the fact that mortgage rates could fall from today's levels of nearly 9 per cent.

The cut in rates will come as the UK heads towards the single currency, which will bring convergence with European rates. In Europe, interest rates are much lower than in the UK. In Germany, for example, rates are about 3 per cent, which means that those buying into today's fixed rates of 6.5 per cent or more could find the prevailing variable interest rate could fall below the level at which their loan is fixed, and they could lose out.

Capped-rate loans offer some security against this scenario, as they guarantee not to rise above the cap, but fall in line with the variable loan rate. They are structured in the same way as fixed-rate loans, often with an arrangement fee and a redemption penalty. Some lenders will charge this redemption penalty beyond the end of the offer. In exchange for longer penalties, lenders tend to offer lower capped rates, which represent

a saving over the prevailing variable rate. Alistair Conway, of Clark Conway, the mortgage broker, said: "We think capped rates are a good idea at the moment. They do not seem to have any downside. They went out of fashion for a few years, but seem to be coming back." He warned potential borrowers to be wary of taking out loans where the redemption penalty stretched beyond the term of the offer.

David Nicholson, head of mortgage marketing at the Halifax, said that capped-rate loans could be attractive to many "borrowers". He said: "We do offer capped rates, both with and without redemption penalties. The prices we offer are 6.95 per cent for four years with no penalty beyond the term, and 6.45 per cent for four years with a redemption penalty that lasts for three years after the term."

Halifax unveiled a range of long-term capped-rate loans this week. It said: "We are offering a 7.2 per cent loan for seven years, and a 6.99 per cent capped-rate loan with a three-year redemption penalty."

CAROLINE MERRELL

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## Government acts on travel insurance

**T**ravel agents who lure customers with price holidays only to sell them expensive, and sometimes inappropriate insurance, have been told by the Government to stop.

By November 16, high street shops will be banned from linking discounts to compulsory insurance. Some direct insurance providers claim, however, that the travel industry is already finding ways of getting around the legislation. For example, they may offer "best" insurance or rely on holidaymakers' apathy by automatically billing them for cover.

The new rules will be in place in time for the post-Christmas promotional period, when travel agents have traditionally offered up to 15 per cent off holidays.

A growing number are opting for annual travel insurance. WorldCover Direct (0800 365121) offers an annual multi-trip policy for £99 for an individual, £135 for a couple and £150 for a family of four. The policy includes unlimited trips per year up to 93 days, medical cover up to £10 million and personal accidents up to £100,000.

Churchill charges £90 for an annual policy for a single person, £118 for a couple and £136 for a family of one or two adults and up to four children under 12.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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Caroline Merrell goes behind the scenes of Camelot's operation

# What if you win the lottery?



A lottery win can lead to a life of *Spend, Spend, Spend*, as Neil Pearson and Victoria Hardcastle found out in the play

If you happen to be passing the Royal Liver building in Liverpool on Monday you may see Teresa Kostuk, Camelot's regional manager for the North-west giving the latest lottery winners some emotional support as they come to terms with sudden riches. "Sometimes I find winners find it therapeutic to stand at the top of the building to shout and let off steam," she said. Ms Kostuk is one of a team of advisers that Camelot, which runs the National Lottery, puts in touch with winners to ensure they are not overwhelmed by their newfound wealth. Advisers include lawyers, accountants and financial experts, all of whom are on hand to give lottery winners advice and support.

The ranks of the UK's gameshow millionaires will be added to tonight as the National Lottery kicks off a new game, aimed at the millions of people who both love to gamble and are football fanatics. The game, *Vernons Easy Play*, will coincide with the start of the football season. It kicks off with a guaranteed jackpot of £2 million, together with a further estimated 200,000 prizes. *Vernons* is expecting 6 million people to play the game, which involves the public in buying a ticket on which the computer randomly selects 11 fixtures. If eight of the fixtures are score draws, the buyer of the ticket will be up for the £2 million jackpot.

The game is expected to create up to £200 million for good causes over the three-year period until the expiry of Camelot's main operator's licence in September 2001.

If you happen to be the lucky winner of the £2 million jackpot tonight, Camelot's team of advisers will be on hand to prevent a repetition of *Spend, Spend, Spend*, the true life story of Viv Nicholson, who managed to fritter her £152,000 winnings, equivalent to £5.8 million today, in just four years. Ms Kostuk tends to see the lucky winners on the Monday, after they have learnt of their win. She said: "Winners will often be in a highly emotional state, they might not have eaten or slept since the Saturday night. A lot of crying goes on. The men are the worst. "One of the first things I do is to tell them to get completely away for a few days. Even if it is only in this country, Scotland, for instance. It is good to get away from relatives and others who may be interested in the money." She tells winners to make any dream purchases immediately, but warns them against taking any other big decisions too quickly. "Often the reality of the situation only hits people, when I tell them how much interest they could earn on their winnings."

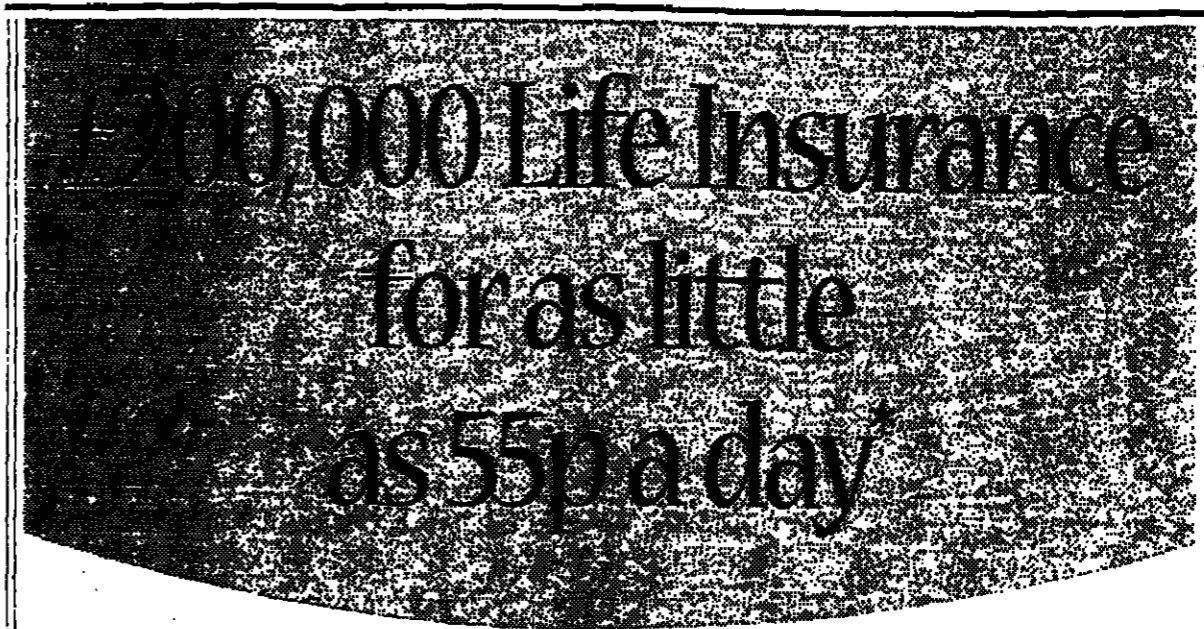
Philip Platts, director of Arthur Andersen in the Midlands, gives more specialised financial advice to many of the lottery winners. His firm will have an initial meeting with winners to find out about their aims and ambitions. "One of the first things we do is to advise people to make a will, then we give some general advice about financial management and the tax implications of anything they plan to do," he said. If the winner is happy with the advice given by Arthur Andersen, then he or she can make another

appointment to get some more specialised advice. Mr Platts said that one of the most crucial decisions for the winner will be whether they intend to give up work. The bigger the win, the more likely it was that the winner would give up their job. He did point out lottery winners who suddenly found that they had to spend all their time with their spouse could be putting their marriage under some new strain.

On the possibilities of a £2 million win, Mr Platts said: "I would recommend a spending fund of around £500,000, which could be used to buy and furnish a house, go on holiday and make any immediate purchases. He said that the winner could put the rest of the money on deposit which would earn about 5 per cent in interest, equivalent to £75,000 income a year. But instead, he recommends that any winner of £2 million opts for less immediate income and instead invests the rest to produce capital growth. "We would recommend a spread of different investments. Some people will not put their money into shares because they feel they will be kept awake at night. National Savings products may be more appropriate," he said.

He warned winners against making hasty decisions as well as immediately making gifts to friends and family. "There are inheritance tax considerations in making any sort of gift to anyone. Also, if the person you happen to be making the gift to is the recipient of any social security benefits, your gift could jeopardise them," he said.

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HYENA PACK 50

Graham Searjeant on a week of market raids

WEEKEND MONEY

BABY TALK 49

The rising cost of the joys of parenthood



Bumpy tracks lie ahead

Index-tracking funds have had a good run, but the downside has arrived, says Gavin Lumsden



Trackers haven't quite been shunted into the sidings, but they have been on a steep downhill gradient in recent weeks

It has not just been the sultry weather which has left investors sweating this month. Around the world stock markets have crashed, threatening to go into meltdown as the global impact of the Asian economic crisis has finally been recognised.

For the second week running stock exchanges in London, the US and Europe have plunged, prompted by fears that the financial situation in Japan, the world's second largest economy, is slipping out of the new government's control.

Experts fear that if Japan fails to rescue its debt-laden banks it could start a "credit crunch" as bankers the world over panic and pull in their loans.

Although this nightmare scenario remains a long way off it was enough to worry investors who have been frightened by the prospect of reduced corporate earnings in the West caused by a flood of cheap exports from the East.

In the UK investors have seen more than £77 billion

wiped off the value of their holdings since the end of July after a 10 per cent slide in the FTSE 100, the index of leading blue chip shares.

Leading fund managers such as Perpetual now believe the combination of Far Eastern competition and high interest rates will now be enough to tip the country into recession. This view has hardened in the light of growing job losses amongst manufacturers.

The pressing question for investors now is whether there will be more falls. David Mossop, chief executive at Perpetual, thought the "correction" was sufficient to take the froth out of the market.

Although most fund managers expect the market to recover and for the FTSE 100 to breach the 6,000 level next year, there is little doubt that the recent turbulence has

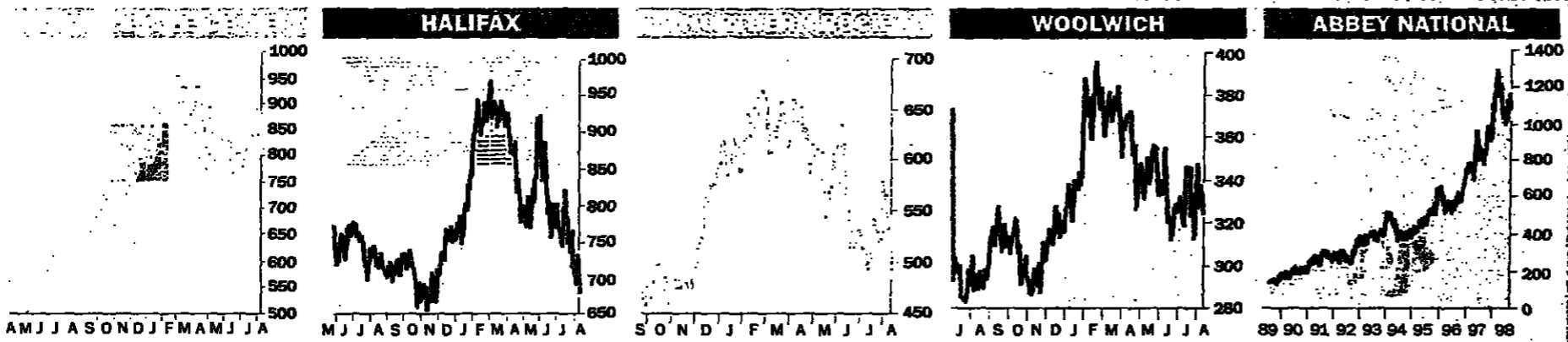
marked a watershed in investors' fortunes. Like many managers, Mr Mossop believes the UK stock market will probably only generate annual returns of 7 per cent next year. This is half the level achieved in recent years, and not much more than you would get from putting your savings in a good deposit account, once fund management charges are taken into account.

So the party is over, is it time to call it a day? This is a

particularly pertinent question if you are one of the many investors who leapt into index tracking funds in the past three years and benefited from the soaring bull market. True to their name, index trackers have tracked the market all the way down this week, nearly derailing themselves in the process. Meanwhile, "active" funds which select stocks rather than buying the whole market, have leaptfrogged their "passive" rivals.

Gordon Maw of Virgin Direct, which has the largest UK tracker, says there is no need to panic. "We never pretend we will always be the number one fund but we do promise consistent returns. Tracking the index does not avoid risks of a market fall but removes the risk of a fund manager getting it wrong. We can't predict what will happen. But if you are prepared to put your money in the UK over five years you will get a good return."

Mark Dampier, of Churchill Investments, an independent financial adviser, agrees the best strategy is to sit tight: "Trying to outguess the market in the short term is a punter's game. On average the stock market has provided total returns of 12-15 per cent. Next year it may fall to 8-10 per cent, but if interest rates fall and inflation stays low it could be higher. This is a rocky time but I do believe it is a short sharp shock."



In 1997, more than 12 million people learnt that conversions could be financial as well as religious when their building societies converted to become banks, distributing free shares to their members. Millions of these new investors are now learning another lesson, as the charts above show, this time about the waywardness of stock markets.

Society shares take a shower

ifax investors who may now wish they had sold when the shares reached 977p in March. The fall in the Halifax price cannot be entirely attributed to the decline in the market. The City is disenchanted with the bank because, according to one analyst, "it is suffering from low market share in its core market."

Gratifyingly for the 250,000 Northern Rock customers who kept their shares, the City has a slightly better opinion of this company. For Credit Lyonnais, the shares are a hold. Mr Thomas said: "Northern Rock has a clear strategy. In an unattractive market, it's an attractive player."

More than half of the A&L savers and borrowers who received shares in April 1997 opted not to sell. Analysis believe they should continue to remain faithful, as A&L has successfully moved into new areas. Credit Lyonnais raises these shares as a hold. But the broker takes a more pessimistic view of the Woolwich, viewing it as a sell, because of its concentration in mortgages. The bank has retained as shareholders some 60 per cent of the 1.3 million who benefited from the distribution.

About half of the Abbey National investors who received shares at its demutualisation nine years ago, the first ever conversion, still hold their shares. These Abbey habitués will be pleased to hear the stock is seen as a buy.

ANNE ASHWORTH

Students can win with The Times

The Push Guide to Which University 99, to be published next Monday, will show that students are leaving university with an average debt of £5,190. The introduction of tuition fees this year is set to increase this by £3,000. But the undergraduates of the 1998-99 academic year will have a chance to leave college unburdened by borrowings.



After the announcement of the A-level results next Thursday, students who have achieved the necessary grades and secured their college places will be applying their minds to the subject of money. In next week's student finance special in Weekend Money, we will compare deals offered by banks. Undergraduates will explain how they are handling their current accounts, trying to keep within their overdraft limits and generally trying to make ends meet.

University challenge: Ellie Varnivedes has a job during term to stay out of debt

ANNE ASHWORTH

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WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

The tax regime of FEPs and ISAs may change, and the value of the tax benefits will depend on the individual circumstances of the investor. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up, you may not get back as much as you invest. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future performance. \*Offer to bid set of basic rate tax, 5 years to 30.6.98, net income paid in 1998 £31, capital value £1,690, 1988 income reinvested, 5 years to 30.6.98 M&G Dividend Fund £1,514. Source: M&G statistics. Building society source: Office for National Statistics - Financial Statistics - Overdraft, credit and deposits. M&G do not offer investment advice or make any recommendation regarding investments - we only promote the packaged products and services of the M&G managing group, issued by M&G Financial Services Limited (regulated by The Personal Investment Authority). Registered Office: M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. M&G Unit Trusts are managed by M&G Securities Limited (regulated by DMO and The Personal Investment Authority).

Advertisement for M&G Dividend Fund. Text: "In 30 years, we've never cut the income." "The M&G Dividend Fund. This year, The M&G Dividend Fund celebrates its 30th year of unbroken income. Investors in it have plenty to celebrate too. In each and every one of those 30 years, the net income paid has increased - even in the depths of the last recession." "As a result, if you had invested £1,000 in June 1968, the income paid out to you this year would be £607, and your capital would now be worth £18,190." "And if, instead, you had chosen to reinvest the annual income, your £1,000 would now be worth £74,013 (even more if you had been able to enjoy tax free returns within the M&G FEP over the period)." "If you would like more details about The M&G Dividend Fund as well as M&G's other unit trusts and FEPs call us now FREE on 0800 210 206." "For full details and application forms call now. 0800 210 206 M&G SILK CUT"

DIANA... The bitter battle for control of her memory



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COUNTRY LIFE



Rash diet: foreign pigs that are fed on our porkers

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FASHION



Designed, sealed and delivered: the new mail order

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Beach companion: Captain Corelli's Cephalonia

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Taking bookings for my Old Women's Home

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SATURDAY AUGUST 15 1998

THE TIMES WEEKEND

DIANA WARS The bitter battle for control of her memory

by Andrew Morton

The earth had barely settled over the Princess of Wales's island grave before the mud-slinging began. Diana may have been at peace, but the nation was not. Social civil war broke out the moment Earl Spencer fired his funeral broadside, a withering fusillade aimed at the House of Windsor and the Fourth Estate. In the early days this seemed a conventional aristocratic feud, the House of Windsor pitted against House of Spencer. First blood went to the Spencers, the Earl's funeral onslaught sending the Windsors into headlong retreat while the massed ranks of the media covered all their trenches. For a time Diana's family conquered all before them with a high-ranking government emissary, Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, inviting Charles Spencer and his sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale, to round-table talks to select schemes that would properly celebrate the Princess's memory. From 10,000 suggestions (many sent in by the public) the committee decided upon a nursing scheme for seriously ill children.

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The Princess of Wales pictured in New York two months before her death. She was attending a launch party at Christie's for the sale of her dresses to raise money for charity

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1mg SILK CUT ULTRA IS LOW IS SILK CUT ULTRA SMOKING WHEN PREGNANT HARMS YOUR BABY Chief Medical Officers' Warning 1 mg Tar 0.1 mg Nicotine



# We all identified with her



Women crying as Elton John sings his tribute

Since her death there has been a continuous attempt to re-write Diana's story — the story she wanted told — so that it conforms to a version of events that owes more to Disney than Diana. In death she has been portrayed as happier, livelier, more saintly than she ever was in life, and as if her marriage to Prince Charles was not so bad after all. It is as if the suicide attempts, her bulimia and Camilla Parker Bowles were brief and unimportant aberrations in a life of sunshine and roses. Even the genuine response to her death has been dismissed as "emotional incontinence", a temporary outbreak of collective insanity.

Just as Diana found herself utterly alone in the early days of her royal life because everyone — her family, her friends, the media and her adoring public — wanted to believe the fairytale, so the current denial of her memory depends on a tacit collusion between Palace, press and public.

As one of her friends perceptively observed: "People are now wishing on her the happiness that she should have enjoyed in life."

What is special about Diana, however, is that the battle for control is not simply about how she should be remembered, but about our view of ourselves as a society. Her image has become a universal brand in which there is something for everyone: intellectuals, feminists, New Age philosophers, fashion freaks, Christian zealots and conspiracy theorists.

Outside the immediate royal arena, the impact of Diana's death revealed a titanic struggle between the forces of reason and those of emotion, between rationality and belief. And it also exposed the gulf between civil society (the general public) and political society (the Establishment).

For those — academics, politicians and others — who see the rational approach as the only means of understanding and ordering human existence, the unprecedented emotional response to the death of the Princess of Wales lay beyond the normal bound-

aries of their comprehension. In their terms it was bogus, sentimental and hysterical. For once the political left and right were united in their condemnation of what the Labour politician Gerald Kaufman called "an extraordinary wave of self-indulgent mush".

In a profound way the most significant impact of her death lay in the manner in which she tapped into a mystical, almost tribal undercurrent in society. For much of her appeal derived from the ancient roots of monarchy, reminding us that the modern constitutional variety, represented by the Windsor family, is but an offshoot of an institution which was founded on myth and magic.

Indeed, when she expressed her desire to be "Queen of Hearts" during her interview for *Panorama*, she was tapping into the monarchy's primitive emotional appeal.

By contrast, the Windsor brand of monarchy is an uneasy blend of domesticity and ceremonial in which the public ritual owes more to a lost empire and echoes of martial might than it does to sentiment, glamour and enchantment. What has been described as "Balmorality" is dutiful, domestic and rather dull.

Even so, the universal appeal of Diana's history lies not just in her relationship with the House of Windsor, but in how her personal journey, reflexed the role of women in modern society. For her story is more than one of the commonplace failure of a marriage. It highlights the treatment of women inside a patriarchal institution which itself derives authority from the teachings of the Church, the utterances of politicians, the morality of the aristocratic ruling class and the collusion of the mass media.

In short, her act of testimony was a challenge to the ancient regime of men.

That is why millions of women identified, and continue to identify, with her struggle, a battle against her class, her image and, at times, herself.

ANDREW MORTON



Earl Spencer with a premature baby at the opening of The Princess of Wales Research Centre in Brisbane, eight months after his sister's death



The princess's mother, Mrs Frances Shand Kydd, was attacked by Mohamed Al Fayed as "an English snob who lives on another planet" after she ignored him in Paris



Continued from page 1  
a £5 coin to be issued in 1999, an award for schoolchildren, a commemorative walkway following the route of her funeral procession and, most controversially, a £10 million garden of remembrance in the grounds of Kensington Palace.

There was scarcely a murmur, either, when the family altered Diana's £21 million will to include a £50,000 bequest to her butler, Paul Burrell. Noticeably, she had left nothing to charity while her godchildren, who between them had been bequeathed a quarter of her possessions, were given only a token item each. Several families of the godchildren were reportedly disgusted by the arrogance the Spencers had displayed in their handling of this sensitive issue.

Consolidating these early victories, Earl Spencer rapidly turned Althorp into an impenetrable redoubt. Not only did the Northamptonshire estate hold Diana's moral remains, but he was quick to fortify her memory, converting the stables into a shrine to his sister where visitors could view her clothes, including her wedding dress and childhood memorabilia, as well as learn about her charity work.

Even home movies of a youthful Diana were called into service for the cause. He further reinforced this Spencer stronghold by issuing a boo, about the house and the Spencer family and, in a scene that reminded everyone that he was

Diana's brother, was photographed holding in his arms a child suffering from Aids during a visit to a hospital in South Africa. His ascendancy seemed complete. The Earl even offered an olive branch to the Windsors, denying, in a television interview, that his funeral oration was an attack on the Royal Family: "I support the Queen enormously but individual members of the Royal Family I don't actually know at all well, although I respect their position." This surprised those in his camp who had heard him speak privately about the Royal Family whose supporters Diana had publicly described as "the enemy".

In fact, these public sentiments were a considerable retreat from his previous position, a withdrawal forced by events which had put him on the defensive. He was badly wounded when he divorced his wife Victoria, choosing to have the hearing in South Africa rather than Britain to save money, but ignoring the fact that it would be heard in public. His swaggering behaviour effected an alliance between his wife and his former mistress, Chantal Collypy, whose testimony seriously damaged his reputation.

In court he was depicted as a drunken, cruel, arrogant adulterer who had told his wife that he wanted a divorce while he lay in the bath. It was claimed that he had bedded a dozen other women while his wife recovered from an eating

disorder at a private clinic. The residents of the media, seeing their fee wounded, promptly raised their (dubious) standards and charged, the cry of "hypocrite" on their lips. The shield of Diana was now of little protection to her brother, as he vainly parried their blows about his plans for Althorp.

His sworn enemies sneered at the cost of tickets for tours of Althorp, described as "tasteless" a pop concert held near the site of her grave, queried the amount he was giving to his sister's charity and, most cruelly, criticised his memorial to her as "vulgar".

Now were they alone in their assault. The Archbishop of York expressed his belief that the family's temple shrine merely encouraged the cult of Diana, arguing that this near-deification was unsuited to the memory of a woman who put others before herself. The moral high ground was rapidly slipping from the 4th Earl Spencer.

Indeed, victory in the War of Diana's Memory was to prove elusive, for the Spencers were not the only ones to claim her legacy. Mohamed Al Fayed launched a pre-emptive strike, planting his family flag on the territory of her unexplored future, arguing that his clan, and in particular his eldest son, had brought her true happiness and love in the last weeks of

her life. He drew up the battle lines when he attacked as a "disgraceful snob" Earl Spencer's decision to omit any mention of Dodi from the Althorp exhibition.

At first Al Fayed seemed to have a formidable armoury. He claimed that Diana and his son Dodi had been about to announce their engagement, and that in consequence there had been a conspiracy to kill them to prevent the mother of the future king from marrying a Muslim. He did nothing to discourage rumours that the Princess was pregnant when she died, and he consistently claimed that she had whispered last affectionate words as she lay dying.

Diana's own fear of the Establishment was skillfully deployed by his side with her comment: "One day I'm going to go up in a helicopter and I'll just blow up. MIS will do away with me," being frequently used to support his contention that the couple had been murdered.

It soon became clear, however, that Al Fayed, for all his expensively deployed weapons, could not withstand the close combat required. His claim that Diana had spoken before she died was officially denied by the French authorities — although one gendarme did report that the semi-conscious Princess had cried "My God" before lapsing into a coma. Even though he marshalled television journalists, conspiracy theory "experts" and doctors to advance his cause,

salvo after salvo of facts shattered his tenuous position. Yet despite all the evidence, many still marched beneath his colours, some 95 per cent of those polled by one tabloid newspaper believing that the British Establishment had been responsible for Diana's death.

(It is, though, worth noting that long before she died I spoke to two of her former advisers for the original edition of *Diana: Her True Story*. Each independently felt that one day the Palace would have her forcibly removed, either by engineering a situation in which she would take her own life, or by killing her. One had even written a script based on that premise for a possible Hollywood movie, arguing at the time that his Doodysday scenario would never be believed.)

The Spencer family, who could have sued the management of the Ritz Hotel in Paris for negligence and thereby ended all such speculation at a stroke, unaccountably chose to hold their fire. Content to wound rather than cripple or kill, they opted for a war of social attrition, deploying instead the background briefing, the quotes from helpful friends.

They made it clear that they were "deeply upset" over Al Fayed's attempts to convince the world that Diana was murdered. Earl Spencer, describing as "monstrous" those who perpetuated the conspiracy theory: "Not only did the family portray as "obscene and unbeliev-

able" a dubious "last interview" in a French magazine during which Diana had allegedly talked of her deep feelings for Dodi — the interview, naturally, was endorsed by Al Fayed — but the Princess's friends and family were quick to point out that, for her, the whole love affair had been simply a passing fancy. She had never mentioned any marriage plans, not to her sons, her family or her social circle, who included her butler Paul Burrell. As one friend said: "She was getting very irritated by his [Dodi's] presumption that he could organise her life."

This phoney war ended in a full-blooded confrontation in Paris where the magistrate examining the causes of the crash assembled all the relevant participants, including Al Fayed and Diana's mother, Frances Shand Kydd, as well as the paparazzi who were still facing charges of manslaughter. After eight hours in the courtroom, where Diana's mother studiously and coldly ignored Dodi's father, Al Fayed launched an all-out offensive, riding headlong into the valley of social death.

The Harrods boss told the waiting media that Mrs Shand Kydd was "an English snob who lives on another planet." Adding injury to insult, he accused her of having been a bad mother, abandoning Diana when she was six years old;

"she didn't give a damn about her," he ranted. Even as he uttered these words, his army of supporters began drifting away, any sympathy for his own loss melting with every new offensive.

It was left to his former employee Trevor Rees-Jones, the only survivor of the crash, to deliver the coup de grace. The bodyguard asked French investigators to question management of the Ritz about the behaviour of the driver, Henri Paul. At last, the focus of the campaign was aimed directly at the weakest point in Al Fayed's armour, namely that negligence within his organisation had directly resulted in the deaths of Dodi and Diana.

Already it had been claimed that a hotel barman at the Ritz had been ordered to keep quiet about Paul's drunken state "for the sake of the Royal Family", while serious questions were raised about the reliability of the evidence from the company that supplied the Mercedes when it was revealed that the firm in question dealt only with the Ritz.

As the Spencers and Fayed, in their own ways, self-destructed, the House of Windsor gradually clawed back the ground that it had lost during the onslaught of the funeral week. Not for it the full-frontal attack or the public assault. Instead, it used the tactics that

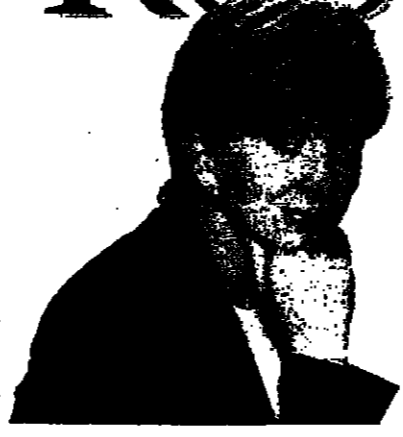
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# Anne Robinson



● I AM now taking bookings for my Old Women's Home. As I see it, since wives generally outlive husbands, in 20 or 30 years' time many of us will be rattling around in big houses while our children elsewhere have those patronising conversations I keep hearing at dinner parties: "My mother's 84. Marvellous really and she's got all her marbles. But I worry about her being on her own."

Well I don't want the strength or quality of my marbles being discussed by anyone thank you very much, hence the plan to have my friends all under one roof, pooling our financial resources, staff and skills, and neatly solving that most terrible of afflictions, chronic loneliness. Not something money can relieve. (I am even more convinced of this since reading that Rod Steiger, miserable and alone in his Hollywood mansion, once rang Joan Crawford and asked her what she was doing. "Absolutely nothing," she cried, so they fixed to meet

for a Chinese.) So far on my list for consideration is the head of an Oxford college, a gynaecologist, two City slickers, three GPs, one solicitor, a dress designer, a gardener and an architect. I am still short of an engineer, a physiotherapist, a hairdresser, a manicurist, a dentist and an optician. Inevitably the media section is oversubscribed — three newspaper columnists, two documentary makers. But at least when *Modern Times* rings up to feature our conourse we can say: "Get spiffed. We'll do it in-house."

My friend Sarah asks if her friend Marion could join. What particular talent and expertise is she bringing? I demand. She's in the House of Lords, says Sarah defensively. A bit borderline. But handy I suppose for getting us decent tables in restaurants and upgrades to Club Class on British Airways.

● WE ARE back again from Paris. A glorious weekend spent with two old friends, Jill and Michael Foot.

At lunch in the gardens of the Palais Royal we toasted Michael's 88th birthday. He recalled being thrown into the city jail in May 1958, and expelled from France the following day, for denouncing President Coty. The offending article in the *Daily Herald* had described the President as "the great nothing of the Fourth Republic" and included the memorable line "all the per-

fumes in Arabia would not make Coty smell sweet."

● JILL says she missed the two-part BBC documentary on Henry Moore, the advance publicity for which delightfully had caused her to hit the headlines. (Interviewed for it, she admitted she was tempted to have an affair with Moore in the early Forties, but resisted be-

cause he was married.) As Jill Craigie, Britain's first female film director, she featured Moore, along with Stanley Spencer, Graham Sutherland and Paul Nash, in her film *Out of Chaos*, made at the end of the war. All these artists highly controversial at the time. She says she originally wanted to call the film *I Know What I Like* because when people say that, they really mean "I

like what I know". But she was overruled by Rank, which provided the finance.

She's also mildly irritated to find that Stanley Spencer is now written up as a neat and tidy man. In fact, she says, he famously wore pyjamas under his clothes and would boast that he hadn't changed them for three months. None of which put off adoring females. She remembers Spencer sweeping into her Hampstead flat one day and crying despairingly: "Why, oh why, am I so attractive to women?"

● ONCE HOME, I scrounge a video of the Henry Moore programmes, a stylish job by James Runcie with some prize vignettes. Not least Mrs Thatcher recounting how Moore and Patrick Heron and John Piper came to see her when she was Secretary of State for Education to plead the case for art students. Henry Moore insisting that if any of them needed three A-levels to get into art school they would

never make the grade. Hilariously, Mrs T's main reason for liking Henry Moore appears to be that, unlike most artists, he was clean and tidy. I don't suppose she would have been keen on Stanley Spencer.

● WHATEVER her cock-eyed artistic views, I can't see our former Prime Minister without rather missing her. Recently, for a documentary, I've been looking back at her reign. In particular, her first trip to China as Prime Minister in 1982, which I covered. She managed to upset just about everybody. The Foreign Office marginally more than the Chinese. For, astonishingly, such was her loathing and distrust of its civil servants that she chose to travel, to discuss the delicate matter of the future of Hong Kong, without a single FO official. Robin Cook may feel she had a point.

● I am taking a summer break but Andrew Yates will be here to delight you next week.



The Prince of Wales meets Sporty Spice in South Africa



Prince Harry does ski gear during the Vancouver trip



Prince William's rapturous welcome in Canada and his father's response to it helped to improve the Royal Family's image after a difficult few months

Continued from facing page  
have served royalty so well for centuries: the slow and subtle siege of a rival's reputation and death by social starvation.

Al Fayed soon fell victim to the Windsors' remorseless campaign. He complained that he had been shunned by Prince Charles and the Duke of Edinburgh: his 12-year sponsorship of the Windsor Horse Show, usually attended by the Queen, was abruptly ended; and he was accused by the Royal Warrant-Holders' Association of "demeaning" the Royal Family for using Harrods' newspaper — which has the coats of arms of the various warrants on it — to pursue his "much publicised" dispute with Tiny Rowland.

Plainly, Al Fayed asserted that: "My only crime is that I am the father of the man who Diana fell in love with and who made her happier than she had ever been."

In the War of Diana's Memory, the Royal House, the fountainhead of all honour, was able to argue convincingly that it had enabled her to become an international icon. It was the Royal Family, too, which held the greatest prize, her sons William and Harry. If the Spencers were keepers of her mortal remains, it was the Windsors who kept the flame of her memory alive in the shy figure of Prince William.

Ironically, the family that had cast her aside now stood guardian to her living image: the future king.

Moreover, for all his brave words about letting the two boys "sing openly", Earl Spencer has had little contact with Diana's sons in the year after her death.

It was also noticeable that friends of the Royal Family — anonymous, of course — helpfully informed the media: that the boys had turned down an invitation to join the Spencers on holiday in Cornwall. And, on the anniversary of her death, her children are expected to be in Scotland at Balmoral, the place Diana had despised, while the Spencers will be hundreds of miles away at Althorp. It was claimed that the two families could not even agree a date when the boys could visit their mother's island grave.

In life the Royal Family had rejected Diana, stripping her of her title of honour, ordering that her name be excluded from the prayers for the Royal Family said in church, and thwarting her ambitions on the world stage. "Imagine, I've got to curtsy to them now — it's too funny. Not that she should have to curtsy to the Queen or Phillip, but to the little members," she said.

In death, however, she underwent a process of "reverse Stalinism", being airbrushed back into the bosom of the Royal Family as though she had never been away, as if all the difficulties of the early 1990s had been just a bad dream, yet in a curious act of penance, rem-

issent of Henry II's barefoot walk through the streets of Canterbury to atone for the part he had played in the murder of his much-loved Archbishop, Thomas à Becket, so the Queen, Prince Charles and the rest of her family underwent a very public transformation in style, if not substance, in an act of deference towards the dead Princess.

Their white knight, Prime Minister Tony Blair, who so brilliantly captured Diana's essence in the phrase "the People's Princess", led the charge on behalf of his Sover-

ign, promising modernisation and reform of the institution. In the brighter "People's Monarchy" there was to be an end to curtsying, the Union Jack would fly over Buckingham Palace and other royal residences even when the Queen was not in residence, while the title "Royal Highness" would be used more sparingly.

The Princess of Wales was the catalyst for this change," admitted royal aides, looking nervously at the opinion polls that showed a decline in support for the monarchy.

There was more. In the months following Diana's death, commentators approvingly remarked upon the new informality and compassion of the Royal Family, particularly Prince Charles. The public's innate sympathy for a father trying to bring up two teenage sons on his own was enhanced by his own behaviour. His visit to South Africa with Prince Harry, where they clearly enjoyed meeting the Spice Girls, and his very public pleasure at the rapturous welcome accorded to Prince William during a trip to

Vancouver revealed, once again, the smiling, affable side of his character which had for so long been submerged beneath the cares of his private life.

There was a return to reverential rather than revelatory reporting about the Royal Family, so that when, for example, the Queen Mother broke her hip in a fall, her accident enjoyed the kind of extensive television coverage not seen since the early days of the Diana phenomenon.

Such criticisms typified the lingering suspicion felt by many that behind its public face the family, though affected by Diana's death, rather wished the slate of history could be wiped clean of her memory.

Certainly the secrecy surrounding Prince William's meeting with his father's mistress, Camilla Parker Bowles only ten months after Diana's death, betrayed Palace discomfort with Diana's memory.

If the brittle relations between the Spencers and Windsors, particularly between Prince Charles and Earl Spencer, personified that unease, then the fund set up as her memorial served as a battleground on which all the conflicting tensions surrounding Diana were fought out: Kensington Palace versus Diana's lawyers; St James's Palace against the fund; even, perhaps typically, Spencers against Spencers.

Watching and judging were millions of stakeholders, those who had created Diana, those who had mourned her, those who supported her fund: the people.

● Andrew Morton, *Diana: Her True Story — In Her Own Words* will be published next week by Michael O'Mara Books, with a new introductory chapter. To order a copy, at £6.99, telephone 01633 710851.

**NEXT SATURDAY**  
**The turmoil over Diana's fund**  
by **Andrew Morton**





4 · shopping

Lady Macdonald tells Gillian Harris why she cannot resist a good shopping centre

ON the long journey from her 17th-century home on Skye to visit friends in Edinburgh, Lady Macdonald always stops half-way. As she approaches the town of Blair Atholl on the A9, she turns off to visit the vast House of Bruar shopping complex which stands out from the hillsides like a white-washed monolith.



Lady Macdonald, a chef and cookery writer, can indulge a love for fine clothes and gourmet food at the House of Bruar

"I simply cannot ignore it," she says. "Neither my husband Godfrey nor I can drive past. It is a perfect stopping-off place and even if I pop in just to have a look round, I always end up buying something. I cannot leave empty-handed."

For Lady Macdonald, the author of 14 cookbooks and head chef at the Kinloch Lodge country house hotel on the banks of a sea loch in Skye, the House of Bruar food hall allows her to stock up on ingredients which are not available on the island. Dubbed "the Harrods of the north", the store sells her favourite potted shrimps from Morecambe, bacon from Ayrshire, frozen langoustine and a selection of Scottish cheeses.

"The word I would use to describe it is quality. I am convinced people come to Scotland just to go there. There is everything under one roof from exquisite chocolates to Austrian clothing. It doesn't matter if you are just buying a sandwich to eat or a supply of fresh fish, the produce is top quality," she says.

Most of the products sold at the House of Bruar originate in Scotland which is a policy Lady Macdonald wholly endorses. Her own restaurant, which she and her husband, the present High Chief of the Clan Donald, have run for the past 25 years, largely depends on home-grown ingredients and fresh local produce. Last month Lady Macdonald opened a £500,000 Centre for Food and Taste at the Clan Donald centre on Skye which has proven to be a welcome addition at the popular tourist attraction.

# High quality in the Highlands

**my favourite shop**

But Lady Macdonald, who was born in Lancashire, was determined to provide her visitors with the best food possible. "I want the centre to be more than a place for cookery demonstrations," she says. "I hope people will gain a better understanding about the value of using first-class ingredients in season."



The House of Bruar specialises in fine Scottish goods

contain photographs of her white-washed home which is dwarfed by magnificent scenery. She says its isolation makes it the ideal retreat for herself and her family. Even though her career revolves around cooking, Lady Macdonald insists that she relies on her husband's culinary teaching when it comes to her own kitchen. "Godfrey was an excellent cook before we married. The children can't believe it. They say: 'Dad? He can hardly boil an egg', but he taught me all sorts of things which make all the difference. "If you've written cookery books people somehow assume that you're going to be a wonderful cook, so invariably I feel that whatever I serve is going to be an awful anticlimax. Frankly, I often feel I'd be better off serving people scrambled eggs," she says.

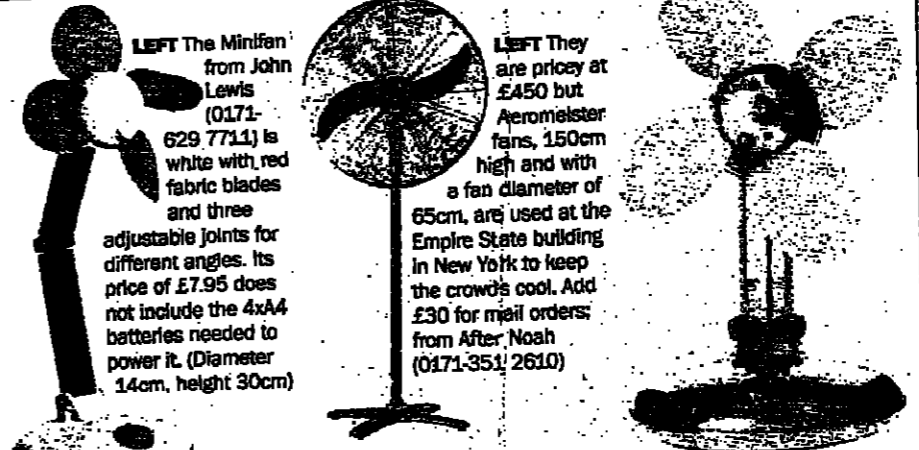
**'Godfrey was an excellent cook. The children don't believe it. They say he can't even boil an egg'**

Back at the House of Bruar, Lady Macdonald has moved on from the foodhall (but not before helping herself to a finger of shortbread which she claims is even better than her own home-baked batches) to the racks of clothes. "It doesn't matter when you come in here, even if it is the darkest day in January, it is always teeming with customers. I have just tried on a coat to die for. It makes me dumpty me look glamorous."

It is made of soft wool, very flattering, with fur round the neck and the hem. It costs £995. "I could hardly bear to look at the price tag. It comes in three colours. But, no, I won't be buying it. Not at that price," she says.

As she prepares to leave, Lady Macdonald allows herself one last look at the coat. "It is so lovely," she sighs. "But it would be a very self-indulgent buy. I'll leave it. For now."

© The House of Bruar, by Blair Atholl, Perthshire (01746 43226) is open daily 9.30am-6pm (mail order from September 1).



LEFT The Minifan from John Lewis (0171-629 7711) is white with red fabric blades and three adjustable joints for different angles. Its price of £7.95 does not include the 4x4 batteries needed to power it. (Diameter 14cm, height 30cm)

LEFT They are priced at £450 but Apromaster fans, 150cm high and with a fan diameter of 65cm, are used at the Empire State building in New York to keep the crowds cool. Add £30 for mail orders from After Noah (0171-351 2610)

## Mind blowing

**ELECTRIC**  
The long, hot summer nights arrived this week, slipping into bedrooms and stifling our sleep. Even the most optimistic sun lovers were caught unaware and left longing for a cool breeze.

Enter the oscillating fan, with its promise of instant coolness, at speeds that range from gentle curtain-fluttering to full duvet-blustering. Forget old notions of office-style design. One of the latest looks to hit the market is the Jelly fan from Pifco (see below).

Brightly coloured and made of plastic, the Jelly fan has been designed to coordinate with the decor of a room. "We wanted to make a fan that looks modern and is a style statement," says brand manager John Marrin. "We want fans to be aesthetic enough to become a design element instead of being hidden in cupboards

**FANS**  
because they are too ugly to leave out." After style, consider noise. A fan that jerks, grinds or whines is irritating. Always try it out before purchasing. Check that the noise, speeds and oscillations are acceptable before you take it home.

And size? Most fans come with a 7in (18cm), 9in (23cm), 12in (30cm) or 16in (40.5cm) diameter, and the larger the fan the more circulation a fan will create. Look out for rubber rests on the base of a fan as these will stop vibrations (as well as preventing damage to your desk, floor or bedside table).

Even if fans are only used sporadically over the summer or stinking hot days, most fans of electric fans will agree, they're a luxury we shouldn't do without.

MARY ANN PERCY



RIGHT The black metal Cini table fan, made in India, has three settings and stands 53cm high, with a diameter of 44cm. £129 from the Conran Shop (0171-723 2223)

LEFT The table-top fan ATQ-30C, available from Debenhams (0171-408 4444) for £70, has three speed settings and oscillates to a 90-degree angle. The fan diameter is 33cm and the height is 40cm

CENTRE Constructed with colourful components in red, green, blue and yellow, the Honeywell Turbo fan, £14.75, has two speeds and sits on a single rear wheel for easy manoeuvrability. (Fan diameter 21cm, height 25cm). From John Lewis, as before.

RIGHT Pifco's (0161-947 3170) Classic fan in black with a chrome finish, £24.99, has a choice of two speed settings and an oscillating function. (Fan diameter 23cm, height 50cm)

Photographs by DES JENSON

**SALE**

During the Summer Sale our entire collection of exclusive international brand and designer furniture is reduced to save you 20% to 50% off the original prices. Enjoy some of the most exciting furniture in the UK, and let our free interior design service help you put the pieces together.

**30% OFF MCC**

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- GALLERIA NERI 25% OFF
- AND UP TO 50% OFF selected Showroom models from our International range. Available for immediate delivery.

**SHOP WATCH**

Easy sofa from Coexistence at the 100% Design show

- NK's mail-order catalogue is packed with all those must-have Nars, Kiehl's and Philosophy products, plus surprises such as herbal eye-teabags at £9. Call 0870 6077060.
- Fired Earth, best known for great tiles, has a trendy new paint range with names such as Clockwork Orange and Strawberry Fields. Call 01295 812088 for stockists.
- Anta's factory shop in the Highlands is a treat for glorious tartan fabrics, woolly throws and stoneware. Find it at Fearn near Tain in Ross-shire (01862 832477).
- Borders will revolutionise your shopping. Along with its four floors of music and books, there are listening stations, a cafe and bar, so you can socialise and shop until 11pm. 197-213 Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-292 1600).
- UPDATE: The 100% Design show has a public day on September 27. Tickets £8 on 0171-381 2993. For £10 a month Whitard Direct will deliver 1lb of coffee, packed small enough to fit through the letterbox. Call 0171-924 1888.

JUDITH WILSON

**GADGETS**

**The Club-Guard**

an expensive joke which could wear thin very quickly; all the same it is difficult not to wince at the thought of what might be each time you lower yourself on to it.

TIM WAPSHOTT

Club-Guard, £19.50 plus p.p. from Essex Injection Mouldings (01702 46173). The Barbed Wire Laundry Seat, £79.95, from the Gadget Shop (01822 802860).

TIMES MUST BE changing in Britain: even the sacred golf club is no longer without opportunist vil-lains. But there are devices to curb their activities, such as the Club-Guard, which can be installed into the top of golf bags so they can be left unattended.

The Club-Guard consists of two plastic plates, one locked and the other free to rotate. They come in a range of sizes to fit most bags and are screwed firmly into place. Each plate is drilled with individual holes for storing individual clubs. When locked, the plates twist so the clubs cannot be removed. For additional protection, a high-tensile steel strap can also be attached for locking the bag to posts or railings.

IF YOU do not want to make your guests feel particularly comfortable when they visit you at home, try fitting the Barbed Wire Laundry Seat. This bathroom novelty is a regular white plastic seat and lid. But inset in the top of the seat is a print of barbed wire. It is





هكذا من لا يميل



# Your chic is in the post



**I**MAGINE that it is Monday evening and you have just been invited to an important social occasion on Thursday. You realise that you have nothing suitable to wear. What is worse, you have no time to go shopping — or at least you think you haven't.

Home shopping, unlikely as it may sound, could be your salvation. Pick up one of the new generation of upmarket clothing catalogues, order an outfit from Whistles, Ben de Lisi, Jean Muir or Guy Laroche by phone and have it delivered to your home or office within 48 hours, boxed, wrapped in tissue paper, and ready to wear.

The latest entrant on to the market, The Book, is going to make more top designers available for home shopping than ever before. The catalogue, which is being launched at the end of this month, should help shake off home shopping's rather dowdy image by offering not just lovely clothes, but innovative design and photography. It is meant to feel a lot more like reading *Vogue* than one of those ridiculously weighty Littlewoods or Crattan tomes.

The Book has an impressive line-up of designers, including Betty Jackson, Jasper Conran,

Red or Dead and Patrick Cox for footwear.

Ben de Lisi is another well-known name whose clothes will be on sale in it, and he is enthusiastic about its prospects: "I believe in catalogues, because although I find the whole idea of shopping at home strange, as I personally like being in a store with all the service and so on, I've realised that a segment of the population likes shopping from their living room. They do sell a lot of clothes this way."

For The Book he was careful to choose clothes from his collection that are, as he calls it, "easy to read" from photographs.

Wayne Hemingway, Red or Dead's designer, is equally

enthusiastic: "It's shot really nicely and has a designer feel. There was a stigma attached to catalogues, but that is all breaking down, thank God. The whole snobbery thing is going."

It will be competing with a handful of designer-led catalogues. One French import that has established itself as a favourite here in the past three years is La Redoute.

Each season it carries clothes from some relatively untried designers and a guest top name. This time it is featuring Guy Laroche by Alber Elbaz, the American designer who is about to move to Yves Saint Laurent.

A relative veteran of the market is Kingshill, which has been

going since 1992. It offers more wearable and less raunchy big names such as Georges Rech, Paddy Campbell, Jean Muir and Italy's I Blues.

**S**urprisingly, perhaps, Kingshill has found that a quarter of its customers are in London, and therefore within striking distance of a huge number of shops. Another large chunk of its customers are in big shopping cities such as Manchester, Leeds, Bristol and Glasgow.

Lucie Scott, general manager of The Book, is also aiming at a largely urban clientele, made up of "working women who know what they look good in

and who work hard at balancing the demands of career, their relationship and, sometimes, their children." In other words, women with money but no spare time.

Among its most covetable offerings, which appear to be aimed at a far younger audience than Kingshill, are simple silver jewellery from Betty Jackson, slinky black evening dresses from Ben de Lisi and navy slip dresses from Whistles.

Many of the prices in The Book are high. The most expensive item is a Betty Jackson leather jacket for £585, while some of the de Lisi dresses also cost more than £500. There are some more reasonable price tags, however, from Planet, Karen Millen and Epsode.

So, unless you are the sort of person who needs to cover the whole of Sloane Street as well as Knightsbridge before making your final selection, there ought to be something in there to get you through Thursday's lunch meeting, the dinner party, night at the opera or a club, and anywhere else in between.



**MAIN PICTURE** Left: Red ribbed cardigan with detachable fake-fur collar and tie belt, £85. Black and red pin-stripe pencil skirt, £70. Centre: grey fitted pencil skirt with floral embroidery, £165, matching pencil skirt with side splits, £70. Right: grey long-sleeved V-neck jumper with black floral embroidery, £70. Grey tailored stretch trousers, £90, all by Karen Millen. From The Book (mail order 0800 3288488).

**ABOVE** Green fitted corduroy jacket, £120 (6610692). Turquoise skinny rib V-neck sweater with frill trim, £65 (8973555). Yellow straight corduroy knee-length skirt, £60 (792 8092). Right: Turquoise skinny-rib sleeveless sweater with frill trim, £50 (8972783). Turquoise skinny-rib cardigan with frill trim, £70 (8973148). Green corduroy trousers, £80 (6600310). All by Guy Laroche par Alber Elbaz. From La Redoute (mail order 0500 777777).

**CENTRE** Chocolate long-sleeved A-line tunic, £225. Chocolate easy-fit wide-legged trousers, £235, all by Jasper Conran. From The Book (mail order as above).

**FAR LEFT** Navy bias-cut silk camisole with black lace trim, £55. Navy mohair lace-knit cardigan with sequin trim, £125. Navy bias-cut silk skirt with black lace trim and drawstring waist, £79, all by Whistles. From The Book (mail order as above).

**LEFT** Black stretch wrap-front body, £99 (MP381710). Black wool-blend trousers, £135 (MP381720). Black suede belt, £50 (MP382010) by Synonyme De Georges Rech. From Kingshill (mail order 01494 890555).

**THREE OF A KIND: MAIL ORDER WHITE SHIRTS**

**LEFT** Fitted shirt, £26.99, Next Directory (0345 100500). **CENTRE** Fitted shirt, £55, Kingshill (01494 890555). **RIGHT** Cotton shirt with pocket, £45, French Connection (0870 6063285).

**SARAH CUNNINGHAM**  
 • The Book (0800 3288488); La Redoute (0500 777777); Kingshill (01494 890555)





Terence Conran at Mezzo before it opened. He is offering a £10 menu during August because "it gives a lot of people the chance to come here"

# August is the cruellest month

It's eighty-something in the shade and the heat, quite literally, is on. August is a tough month for the restaurant trade.

Visit Paris and other French cities in the height of summer and you will find them, and their grander restaurants in particular, sans their regular customers, all but boarded up. Not so, however, over here. In keeping with our dogged national character, the vast majority of our ritzier, more celebrated and larger restaurants painfully soldier on.

Large, 150-seat-plus restaurants, for which we have developed a consuming passion, work well when packed but come the slow summer months, the going gets tough.

**Restaurants have a tough time of it in summer, says Rohan Daft**

Cash flows, alas, must continue to flow so there's no chance of their shutting up for August and the staff going on holiday.

"August is deadly," says Tony Allen, the chairman and founder of Bank, the large restaurant on London's Aldwych, with refreshing honesty. "Some of the rents on big restaurants are anything between £200,000 and £500,000 a year.

To sustain a month of that you need to find a lot of money." Mr Allen pays a relatively reasonable £135,000 a year; he intends to use the month to take stock and give his staff an easier time. Thus, unusually, he isn't offering any special deals this August.

His competitors, however, are often desperate to get people in through the doors, offering promotions galore. August is becoming a bargain month for eating out.

Take the Conran restaurant empire in London. During August, you can enjoy at a very good lunch — rotisserie rib of beef with red wine and creamed horseradish followed by blueberry sponge pudding, for example — for £10, at Mezzo, Quaglinos, Zinc, the Bluebird or Cantina del Ponte.

"It's really to give a lot of people an opportunity to come in and dine in our restaurants who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity," says Victoria Parnis, Conran spokeswoman.

Mr Allen says: "Terence Conran has got some very big rooms to fill up. I can't say I blame him for going down that route of cheaper promotions. It's a clever piece of marketing because a lot of people say that if you advertise a restaurant, people automatically think you are struggling.

"It benefits the customer because without such deals some people might feel intimidated about going to such West End restaurants. I went to one of his restaurants recently to try this £10 deal and by the time you have had a glass of wine and some side orders and a dessert you are back to £20 per head."

There are a host of similar August marketing ploys on offer at top restaurants throughout the country. At the 90-seater Fourth Floor at Harvey Nichols in Leeds you could enjoy a light lunch of, for example, smoked salmon salad, a glass of champagne and a pudding for £16. Not cheap, but still a substantial saving from what you would normally pay.

"August is a quiet time," says Paul Ellison, the restaurant's assistant manager. "We have an advantage here because we are cushioned by being a part of Harvey Nichols, but restaurants rates and rents don't change throughout the year, whereas business does."

## GOOD DEALS

■ **Ma Belle, 11 Wheat-sheaf Yard, Blue Boar Street, Oxford (01865 722473).** Summer menu: salads £5, baguettes £4, hot dishes £6.50.

■ **Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons, Church Road, Oxford (01844 278881).** During August a one-night midweek escape costs £190 per person including a seven-course dinner and breakfast.

■ **Dan's Restaurant, 119 Sydney Street, London SW3 (0171-352 2718).** Summer lunch menu — two courses £12.50, three courses £16.

■ **The Star of India Restaurant, 154 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 (0171-373 2901).** Lunchtime starter and main course for £12.50.

■ **Fishnets, Fulham Road, London SW6 (0171-565 1430).** £10 two-course lunch.

■ **Nico Central, Mount Street, Manchester (0161-236 6488).** Three-course meal including coffee for £12.50 lunchtime and from 5.30pm-7pm.

■ **Browns Restaurant, 38 Queens Road, Clifton Bristol (0117 9304777).** Barbecue menu on the terrace, chargrilled chicken £6.95, steak sandwich £7.95.



Many diners prefer to eat salads during the hot weather

While Manchester's Mash and Air (two restaurants in one location with a combined seating of 240) aren't offering any special lunch or dinner deals, they are very open to negotiating a special price with you should you wish to host a set dinner — which they don't ordinarily offer — for eight or 10 people.

And at their sister restaurant, Coast, in London, during August you can get, between 6pm and 7pm, a two-course pre-theatre dinner for £18.50. Throughout the rest of the year, a main course costs somewhere between £15 and £25.

And if you want to go ethnic try Tamarind or Varna, two of the capital's new-wave Indian restaurants, where a set lunch will set you back, respectively, £10.50 and £5.95.

Ordinarily, you wouldn't expect to get out of Tamarind in the evening without finding your self about £40 a head poorer.

For all their woes, however, one money-saving advantage that swanky high-overhead restaurants do have in August

— although this can be a problem for the likes of Tamarind and Varna — is that people prefer to eat lighter, easier food which, ultimately, demands less staff. "People want things like simply done fish and salads," adds Mr Ellison. "Simpler food means less preparation so we can tie in special offers with staff holidays."

When lighter menus come in there is less work to be done.

And don't worry about restaurateurs in Edinburgh during August. Thanks to the festivals, both Fringe and official, the city doubles its population of 450,000. You won't find any special offers here.

"If only we had more tables," says Steve Hall, assistant manager of Andrew Radford's super busy Blue Bar Café, the sister restaurant of the much-acclaimed, Atrium an 80-seater establishment which is fully booked at £28 a head for the whole month unless you're very lucky.

"Andrew is one of the UK's most fortunate restaurateurs at this time of year," says Mr Hall. He surely is.

## THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT



Russchian has managed to survive the Seventies

## Russchian Tonic

In 1978, an all-singing, all-dancing ad campaign launched Schweppes's new vodka mixer into what was then a burgeoning market. The Tsarist imagery chimed with disco's perennial fascination for all things decadent, and the company's famous 'Sch...' of high carbonation allegedly got the vodka flowing through the system with welcome efficiency. It was a hit.

Described as "sweetly aromatic", the pinko mixer even became quite popular as a soft drink in its own right, tasting, at first gulp, of peaches, with bittering agents providing the finish. Customarily for the times, colouring was all natural, being derived from grape skin extract.

Deregulation of the big pub chains freed landlords to shop around for their stock — including mixers — and the drink that lives by the publicity machine will almost inevitably also dwindle without this life blood.

Russchian is still widely available and retains a sizeable following in the midst of a flavoured-vodka craze. Who now remembers Brivick's Vostok, the principal rival, or still boogies down to Ra-ra Rasputin? Even the two-headed eagle, stamped on the little bottles in Sidcup to conjure up a far-away and never-to-be-repeated regime, now adorns official badges and even the banners at the Tsar's recent funeral.

A curious footnote to this case is the fact that most of our Russchian is still exported to the Scandinavian countries, notably Finland, where they certainly know their vodka but are not allowed to half the time. There, the mixer's fragrant and civilising qualities are considered the perfect complement to homemade Nordic brew, knocked back to the sound of Leningrad Cowboys in the ever-lasting twilight.

KATE STRONACH

## HENRY HARRIS'S CHEAT OF THE WEEK

ENTERTAINING IS OFTEN fraught with problems, but probably the biggest concern for the home cook is timing: what goes in the oven, what goes on the boil, when and for how long? Will I be stuck in the kitchen all evening while everybody else is enjoying themselves? Will I be drinking the decent wine while I'm left with the slops?

Some hosts I know prefer to hide away, busying themselves with food. They're the sort who start washing up between courses leaving guests to chat among themselves, the type of people who my fellow columnist John Morgan would reprimand in his Modern Manners on the final page of this section.

So, to avoid the wrath of Morgan and your dinner guests, you have to make sure you don't tie yourself to the stove when you're giving a dinner party. And it really is quite easy to get around this problem: simply serve cold food. In



large hotels which are expert at banqueting, the starter when huge numbers are involved is almost invariably cold. After many years of practice, these masters of entertaining know what makes for a more fluid service.

My suggestion this week is to make a variation on Piedmontese peppers. It involves tomatoes but I have an aversion to skinning tomatoes, which dates back to my days as a commis chef when that was the only job that I seemed to do from dawn to dusk.

A simple but effective cheat is to use sweet vine-ripened cherry tomatoes which don't require skinning.

**PIEDMONTESE PEPPERS**  
serves 4  
4 red peppers  
4 cloves of garlic, peeled

250g red cherry tomatoes  
250g yellow cherry tomatoes (purists use 500g red)  
8 anchovy fillets  
good olive oil

Preheat oven to 180C, cut the peppers in half leaving the stalk attached, but scoop out the seeds. Then finely slice the garlic and put some at the bottom of each pepper. Pick over and wash the tomatoes and fill the peppers generously. Depending on the size of the peppers you may have a few left over for a salad.

Cut each anchovy fillet lengthwise and put two pieces on top of each pepper. Transfer them to a roasting pan and liberally douse with olive oil and a milling of pepper. Bake for one to one and-a-half hours or until soft and lightly scorched.

Henry Harris is head chef at the Fifth Floor, Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge

# Drink



**Jane MacQuitty**  
Swish cocktails make the perfect summer thirst-quencher and you don't have to pay fancy bar prices

My biggest post-bag ever does not concern the contentious business of decanting — although it runs a close second — but my cheat's recipe for Pimm's.

I devised this humble imitation to cock a snook at United Distillers which was mean enough to reduce the alcoholic content of the popular gin sling not once but twice. Today's wispy-washy 25 per cent alcohol version costs almost £12. My fake costs a fraction of that and, provided you use decent lemonade, fresh fruit and clean ice and chill the ingredients thoroughly, I defy anyone to detect the difference.

To make this Cheat's Pimm's, take one measure of gin, one of red vermouth (French or Italian) and half a measure orange curacao (50cl costs £9.29 at Fullers). Mix together and pour into a large jug or glass. Go easy on extras: one slice each of orange, lemon and cucumber is perfect, plus a sprig of fresh borage and, if you must, one of mint. Just before serving, top up with ice-cold lemonade or ginger ale.

Now that the hot weather's here at last, I am the first to admit that there are times when wine simply does not hit the spot. What most of us need instead are classic, thirst-quenching combinations that will cool you down and give you a decent alcoholic hit at the same time. Of them all, long, dry, zesty, citrus-based fruit and alcohol combinations are the best. If you care about taste, take it from me that none of the additive and preservative-laced bottled or Tetra-packed "juices" remotely resemble the real thing. So, get out the squeezer and knuckle down to the River Café's heavenly Pink Grapefruit Fizz. Simply combine one measure of Campari with the juice of half a ruby grapefruit in the bottom of a tall glass and top up with ice-cold fizz. The River Café's original recipe calls for an Italian prosecco but Spain's cheap yet stylish cava brut, such as the lime-scented version from Sainsbury's priced at £4.99, do the job just as well.

sparkling mineral water or soda. Using the finest dry gin you can afford really does make a difference here, and Tanqueray Gordon's superb Export-Strength Gin, at 47.3 per cent, (everywhere £14.99) is the best I have found.

Fresh lime, like lemon, is one of those fruit flavours that the drinks industry has yet to imitate or improve upon, which is what makes a frosty Daiquiri one of the best summer blends to help you chill out. Squeeze the juice from a fresh lime and mix with two measures of white rum and caster sugar to taste. There are thousands of ways to create the perfect Daiquiri but the simplest and best is to shake it thoroughly with lots of crushed ice and strain into an elegant glass. Crushing ice is easy. Put cubes, made from a good still mineral water into a thick plastic bag and hit them with a hammer.

Short summer mixes can be as refreshing as the long variety. The simple classic versions of these win me over every time, and Whisky Sours make an especially flavour-some summer drink. To make a classic American Whisky Sour, take two measures of a good smoky bourbon such as Mack-

er's Mark (Victoria Wine £18.69), add the juice of half a freshly squeezed lemon and a teaspoon of caster sugar. Shake briskly with ice-cubes, strain and pour into a short glass.

Vodka continues to be the darling of the new cocktail-swigging generation but whatever you do, avoid the British vodkas with Russian names that taste of nothing. Avoid too the flavoured, commercially produced vodkas such as Absolut Citron. These reek of the fake fruit odours they are made from and are as far removed from the real thing as supermarket white sliced bread is from homemade wholemeal. The finest vodka mix I know is the one ace barman Dick Bradwell devised especially for *The Times*, called, fittingly, The Thunder. It's a lethal but divine mix of one teaspoon of crème de cassis (Boudier's 50cl costs £9.75 at Yapp; 01747 860423) swirled around a frozen glass, before two measures of frozen Stolichnaya vodka (Sainsbury's £12.99) are added along with an optional half teaspoon of Parfait d'Amour.

Here's to summer!

Next week: Hot weather wines

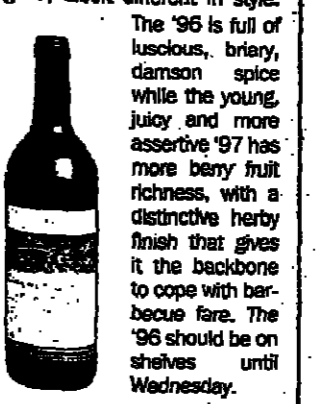
## STAR BUYS

1997 Cortières, Les Celliers de Staphany, Safeway £2.99 (two for £2.50 each from Monday until September 12).

1996 Vinho Regional Ribatejo, Falco, Safeway £2.99, but buy two for £2.50 each from Monday until September 12.

Ignore the dire label; within is a gorgeous, fruity holiday red that, just like beajouls, takes well to the ice-bucket on August's hottest days and is

Safeway is currently switching from the '96 vintage of this splendid summer red to the '97. Both years are equally good, albeit different in style.



**BEST OF THE REST**  
Given Safeway's August offers, there's no need to shop anywhere else. Try two bottles of its 1997 Vin de Pays de Vaucluse, down from £2.99 to £2.50 a bottle. For white-wine drinkers, Safeway's own 1997 Muscadet is £2.50 a bottle provided you buy two, and the same deal applies to its own-label white 1997 Vin de Pays de Vaucluse and white 1997 Ribatejo. All good holiday fodder.

Advertisement for the Times magazine, featuring a large image of the magazine cover and the text 'the times'.



# The Times Cook

The Glorious Twelfth has arrived  
— and that means braces of fresh  
grouse, ready for traditional roasting

The grouse season opened in the middle of last week, but I did not buy any. I am lucky enough to have a birthday that falls a week after the grouse season opens, which is the best possible time to eat my favourite game bird. I do not mind whether I cook it myself or I am treated to lunch or dinner somewhere grand.

There are obvious merits to the latter, of course, but if we eat at home, my husband, Tom, will take from the cellar a far grander bottle than we could ever afford in a restaurant.

I have to keep my fingers crossed that there will indeed be grouse. Each year one hears stories of frost killing the heather, leaving the grouse with nothing to feed on, or disease decimating the flocks.

Unlike much game, which is now reared in pens on a large scale for releasing and then shooting, grouse had always seemed to be the one really wild, unmanaged bird. But now certain estates are catching the birds, ringing them and then

medicating them if they are found to need it. I am not sure how I feel about this.

It is justifiable to maintain a healthy flock, but perhaps that is what poultry farmers said when they first brought chickens indoors, and we know what that led to.

But let us not be pessimistic. Perhaps I will be lucky enough to have grouse for my birthday again this year. Whoever cooks the grouse, it must be served with the classic accompaniments of game chips, gravy and perhaps a mash of root vegetables.

Actually, if I am cooking it, I shall not make game chips; instead I shall probably roast some potatoes in duck fat or serve mashed potatoes. Grouse is also good with polenta, tradition notwithstanding.

To appreciate the grouse's uniquely delicate flavour and texture, the cooking and presentation must be kept simple. One year I let

myself be persuaded by a delightful French chef of my acquaintance, a grouse aficionado, that a grapefruit and juniper sauce would be a pleasing accompaniment. I think not.

This is one time when I am quite happy to follow tradition; grouse is not a candidate for fusion cooking, but perhaps I am tempting fate. Even now, some idiot is eyeing up a few brace of grouse while chopping the lemon grass, infusing the lime leaves and glazing some baby turnips with balsamic and soy sauce.

Here is the meal I shall cook if we are dining at home *à deux*. Smoked wild salmon or smoked Glenarm salmon from Selfridges is a perfect way to start a meal. If not that, I shall probably be tempted by something from the new *traiteur* counter, where chef Vincent produces some delightfully home-made looking specialties such as *pied de porc à l'ancienne*, *jambonneau* and *rillettes*, as well as elegant lobster *chaudroid*.

But at this time of year I am also tempted by wild mushrooms. Earlier in the summer I bought some beautiful chanterelles picked in Scotland that were impeccably fresh and clear. I shall hope to find some just like those, which I shall cook in butter, with a little chopped shallot, the merest hint of garlic — as the chanterelles are so delicately flavoured — and a generous hand with the parsley.

Halved ciabatta rolls, hollowed out, brushed with butter and baked will be the containers, and I shall use the pulled-out crumbs in order to make some bread sauce for the grouse.

To end the meal, muscat grapes and fresh figs will be perfect with some good British cheeses. With them, I serve the first of the season's cobnuts, and perhaps a slice of blackberry cheese. Or, if I am in the mood, I might make a pud, something with fruit and custard and meringue.

Chanterelles  
Serves 2  
2 ciabatta rolls  
100g butter  
1 shallot, peeled and finely chopped  
½ garlic clove, peeled and crushed  
400g chanterelles or other wild mushrooms, trimmed, brushed, and wiped

Salt  
Pepper  
Flat leaf parsley, finely chopped, 1-2 tsp, plus leaves for garnish

CUT a lid from the rolls and pull out most of the crumbs. Melt the butter in a sauté pan and brush some of it inside the buns. Bake until crisp and golden in a moderate oven. Meanwhile, cook the shallot and garlic in the remaining butter and, when soft, add the chanterelles.

Cook for 15 minutes, then season, stir in the parsley and spoon the mushrooms into the baked cases. Finally, decorate with parsley and serve.



Frances Bissell

Roast grouse  
Serves 2  
Small piece of celery  
Slice of ginger  
Fenugreek or watercress stalks  
A few peppercorns  
75ml red wine  
500ml water  
2 grouse

BECAUSE it is difficult to get even cooking of the breasts and legs of grouse, I separate the legs from the back, and then cut the back away from the breast. I use the backs, together with the seasonings, wine and water, to make a stock, which should cook for about 1½ hours

before the grouse is roasted. Later in the season, I use this same method for cooking wild duck.

Having carefully removed the wishbone, which makes the eventual task of cutting up the grouse much easier, simply bard the breast with pork back fat (not bacon — who wants grouse tasting of bacon?), roast it at 200F for 25-30 minutes, switch the oven off, open the door, and let the bird rest for 5 minutes.

Timing will need adjusting to the size of the bird and how well done or under-done you like it. My timing produces flesh that just has a hint of pink, which is how I like it. Meanwhile, try or grill the legs.

ALAN ADLER

to be served at the same time as the breast, reduce the stock to the consistency of a not-too-sticky gravy, and season to taste.

Serve each grouse portion and two legs on heated plates, and garnish with your chosen accompaniments, including some generous sprigs of watercress.

Grouse for four or six can be prepared in exactly the same way; it will simply take longer to dismantle them, but roasting time will remain the same.

Bread and onion sauce  
1 onion, peeled and chopped  
200ml milk  
1 bay leaf  
2 cloves  
50g soft white breadcrumbs  
25g butter  
Freshly grated nutmeg  
Salt  
Pepper



SIMMER the bay leaf, cloves and onion in the milk until the onion is tender. Stir in the bread and cook for a minute or two more. Rub through a sieve, and mix with the butter. Season to taste with nutmeg, salt and pepper.

Plum and meringue puddings  
Serves 2  
6 or 8 plums, stoned  
75ml full-bodied red wine, such as a Rhône  
1 cinnamon stick  
75g caster sugar, or to taste  
100ml thick custard  
1 free-range egg white

PUT the fruit, wine and cinnamon in a saucepan and cook gently until the fruit is just tender. Stir in half the sugar and allow to cool. You can cook the plums the day before required if you wish.

Next, spoon into two ovenproof ramekins, adding juice, but not enough to cover the fruit, which should provide a firm base for the custard. Spoon this smoothly over the fruit. Whisk the egg white with half of the remaining sugar, then gradually add the rest until the mixture has become firm and glossy.

Spread over the custard and cook on the middle shelf of a low oven at

## THE PERFECT PEAR SORBET

THE texture of a sorbet is grainy and rough when little sugar is used. The more sugar you use, the smoother the sorbet. An ice-cream maker or sorbetière is also indispensable for a really good result — except in this case, where a food processor is required, and relatively little sugar. Here is a fruit sorbet that can, with a little advance preparation, be made in seconds. I am not an advocate of fast food, but this recipe really is fast.

INGREDIENTS: A lemon, some icing sugar, sugar syrup or elderflower syrup, and ripe, sweet, juicy pears.

METHOD: peel, core, quarter and freeze the pears. You can do this with large quantities. Remove from the freezer the quantity you need, the equivalent of about two pears for three people. Put the pieces in the food processor with the juice of half a lemon and, per person, 2-3 tsp of sugar or syrup. Process on pulse for a few bursts and, once the pears are broken up, process until smooth. Spoon into well-chilled glasses and serve immediately.

ALTERNATIVE: mango sorbet can be made in the same way, as can a pleasant banana sorbet.

Next week:  
The perfect coeur à la crème

150C, gas mark 2, for 15-20 minutes. The meringue should not be allowed to colour too much. Serve warm.

You can also make a pudding for six in a soufflé dish using about a kilo of fruit and 600ml custard, with the other ingredients similarly increased, and a cooking time of 45 minutes.

This is, of course, a good basic recipe that can easily be adapted to all the late summer and early autumn fruits, especially greengages.

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Next week:  
Home cooking — local shopping with a French flavour



## CONSUMING INTERESTS: HONEY

I AM no apiarist but I do understand that the flavour, colour and consistency of honeys will vary with the different floral nectars on which the bees are foraging, and the season. Readers will observe that the search for the right stuff takes many of the busy

bees into some highly aristocratic territory, but my favourite in this particular tasting came from the windswept Hebridean islands, where more than half of all the British wildflower species bloom.

ROBIN YOUNG



Windsor Great Park Natural Honey, £3.95 per lb plus p&p from Fiona Dickson, Diddington Manor, Diddington, Norfolk IP26 5AT (01942 878673; fax 01942 878671)

Claims: "This multifloral honey has been produced by bees living in the magnificent gardens of Royal Lodge, situated within Windsor Park's 4,000 acres... unique and delicious." Verdict: Clear, runny orange-brown honey, with a syrupy texture and slightly malty flavour. ★★

Sneatondale Honey Farms Luxury Borage Herbal Honey, £2.80 for 340g from Bee Health Limited, Racecourse Road, East Ayton, Scarborough, N Yorkshire YO13 9HT (01723 864001) Claims: "Beautifully light, delicate honey gathered by our own bees." Verdict: Translucent, yellow-brown, runny honey with some froth at rim. Borage gives a strong and distinctive flavour, strangely redolent of seaweed and rather addictive. ★★

Struan Heather Honey, £5.50 per lb inc p&p from Struan Apiaries, Conon Bridge, Ross-shire IV7 8EX (01349 861427) Claims: "At Struan Apiaries you may be assured at all times of the personal service of a small family business." Verdict: Thick and dark orange-brown colour, with a heavy, dusky flavour. The honey also showed some tendency to separate. ★

The Duchess of Devonshire's Heather Honey, £3.95 for 340g from Chatsworth Farm Shop, Stud Farm, Pilsley, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1UF (01246 583392) Claims: "100 per cent pure and natural ingredients. Pure bees' honey." Verdict: Ready appearance with a white crystalline suspension in thick-set, dark jelly. Like eating crushed honeycomb, a crunchy texture I found disagreeable and disconcerting. No star.

Teme Valley English Honey, £2 per lb plus p&p from Dr Carol Field, Sutton House, Sutton, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire WR15 8RJ Claims: None. Verdict: Asemantically pale, granular thick-set honey with a mazzipan-like texture. No great distinction. ★

Sweet Chestnut Honey, £6.95 per lb from The Hive Honey Shop, 53 Webb's Road,

Battersea, London SW11 6RX (0171-924 6233) or by mail order, p&p not included. Claims: "An unusual honey gathered by our bees from the Crown Forest in Bagshot, Surrey... the strong of it can be smelt a hundred yards from the hives." Verdict: Chestnut honey is often said to be earthy, but this one so runny it was difficult to catch was akin to the honey flavours found in good German Riesling wines. An acquired taste? ★★

Denrosa Royal Deeside Heather Honey, £3.90-£4.50 from stockists including Selfridges, or from Denrosa, Couper Angus, Perthshire PH13 9AE (01328 627721; fax 01328 628262) Claims: "Finest quality 100 per cent Scottish produce." Verdict: Hefty flavoured, dark, cloudy and grainy honey with the colour and texture of thick French mustard. ★★

Isle of Colonsay Wildflower and Heather Honey, £4 per lb plus p&p, from Andrew Abrahams, Poll Gorm, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll PA61 7YR (01951 200265) Claims: "It is the fragrant nectars of the numerous wildflowers that give Isle of Colonsay Wildflower Honey its unique and special flavour." Verdict: Beautiful, soft-set deep amber honey, free of granulation, and velvety smooth in both texture and flavour. Rich and seductive. ★★ ★★

## You brought a lasagne on a plane?

Brooklyn bred and fed, the Italian-American Marisa Tomei, 33, left home at 19 and crossed East River for the bright lights of Manhattan. In 1992 she lit up cinema screens across the world with her Oscar-winning performance in *My Cousin Vinny* with Joe Pesci. Yet although you can take the girl out of Brooklyn, you can't take Brooklyn out of the girl.

It was during the filming of *My Cousin Vinny* that her mother Addie's Brooklyn cooking came to the fore. "She had to go down South to Georgia to film," says Addie. "She was really worried, coming from New York, about what she was going to eat down south — there's nothing to eat down there except grits. She said to me 'How about you make me a lasagne to last me a long time?'"

Addie dutifully baked the lasagne, catering size, and Marisa took it with her on the plane. On board she bumped into her co-star and fellow Oscar winner, Pesci, the star of *GoodFellas*. "So they are going on the plane and he says 'What do you have?'" recalls Addie. "She says 'I have a lasagne'. He says, 'I can't believe it. You brought a lasagne?'" She says that he then eats half of it.

On another occasion Addie satisfied Marisa's craving for her favourite dish, string beans with marinara sauce, by sending some across country from the East Coast to the Midwest. "I shipped a large pot of them all the way to Minneapolis," says Addie. "She said she had to have them."

Although Addie is as confident cooking Chinese food as her native cuisine, she finds that her family invariably demands pasta. If Marisa or her brother Adam, also an actor, are home for a meal that's what they always ask for and at Thanksgiving, when the whole family gathers every year, its presence

Mum's cooking is never far from Marisa Tomei, writes Joe Warwick

## HOME COOKING

on the table is always a source of lively discussion.

"Oh God, it's hilarious," screams Addie. "We have a big debate about whether we are going to have pasta or not. One side says this is an American holiday, we have pasta every goddamn day and we should not have it on Thanksgiving. The other side says that's what we like so that's what we should eat." Last year the compromise was to make pumpkin ravioli. "Pumpkin is a traditional Thanksgiving vegetable," explains Addie.

This year she has another means of accommodating family members who want pasta: "I suggest we just make a lasagne shaped like a turkey." She's laughing, but I know she's serious.

Although her family is third-generation Italian, they are fiercely proud of their heritage and particularly of the food from Mamma's kitchen.

Addie revels in the task of feeding her son and daughter, along with her husband. "I have just the two children," she says, "and a husband who is a good eater." Despite a brief flirtation with vegetarianism Marisa was easy to feed, unlike her brother. "When he was a kid he ate peanut butter and jelly for three years straight, every day and nothing else," she explains. "I forced



Marisa with her brother Adam, also an actor, in their tap-dancing days

him to try baloney, then he ate baloney every day for three years. He's still not too good with vegetables. But Marisa ate everything as a kid, she was very good."

She followed her daughter across the Brooklyn Bridge to Manhattan six years ago. Back in Brooklyn she worked as an English teacher for 27 years in a school where the food was so horrendous that ketchup was counted as a vegetable.

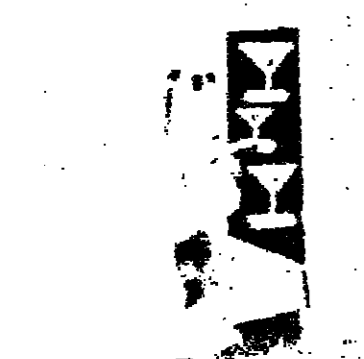
Today the family are inevitably separated by the film industry. Adam lives in Los Angeles while Marisa lives just around the corner from her mother in Manhattan's West Greenwich village. Although there is a plentiful supply of high quality take-aways right on Marisa's doorstep, they are not in the same league as her mother's cooking. This combined with the fact that her daughter is not an enthusiastic cook means that her mother delivers frequent dishes. "I often cook for her when she's in town. I bring it over and she's very happy," says Addie.

joined them to begin with. "We quit after ten lessons because we were exhausted," explains Addie. "They just kept going," but the children's TV diet was restricted at Addie's insistence. "We always had dinner together in the evening which was not true of all their friends," says Addie. "They complained because they'd want to watch *Star Trek* or whatever — I insisted that we ate together. Now they feel grateful that I insisted that we at least had that time together."

These days, with her own company, Savory Sojourns, she conducts culinary tours through New York. She says: "I have great affection for Brooklyn but I don't miss it in terms of living there."



Marisa with Joe Pesci in *My Cousin Vinny*, for which she won an Oscar





هكذا من لامل

# Joanna Pitman



Alice prepares to be the youngest guest ever at a luxurious *castello* in Tuscany

I am preparing to go into close combat with Alitalia over the question of our flights to Pisa. For some reason the airline is unable to guarantee a "bassinet" reservation for young Alice who, at eight weeks of age, will not be big enough to sit up in one of its adult seats. Things got off to a bad start when Roberto on reservations misheard me and convinced himself that Alice would be eight years old at the time of take-off and couldn't understand why I wanted a bassinet for her in the first place. Having informed him that she is only 45cm long, he explained that seats cannot be reserved in economy class and that they would be allocated on the day on a first-come, first-served basis. Visions floated before my eyes of herds of tired and emotional tourists waiting for the gate to be announced and then running in a great feisty mob to nab all the bulkhead seats. Admittedly Alice's return ticket at £22 is very nice, but my lack of sleep is affecting my sense of adventure.

● APART from the flight preparations, organisation for Italy is taking us into Amazonian expedition territory. We've got a portable water sterilisation kit designed for nasty "foreign waters". We've got factor-50 sun cream, a cot mosquito net, a pair of elastically satisfactory Aquanappies — otherwise known as floaties — in case Alice feels like extending her enjoyment of bath time to the swimming pool. And we have enough hats and bonnets to satisfy any royal lady-in-waiting, including a much admired *Liver Birds* cap bought by Giles in yet

another fit of paternal indulgence. As I am still performing my duties as the human milk bottle, we can leave the baby larder behind; but weighing heaviest on our minds is the nappy question. Mothers experienced in such matters have warned that Italian Pampers "don't keep it in" so we are considering packing full supplies. We are also beginning to wonder just how baby friendly our destination is likely to

be. It is a Tuscan *castello* dating back to the Middle Ages, formerly owned by the Sitwell family and, by all accounts, a splendid ornamental palace of great creature comforts (Giles's parents niftily got their reservation in before Tony Blair's holiday secretary got wind of it). But judging by Osbert Sitwell's autobiography, cots and prams have never darkened its doors. Still, Alice will have plenty of

aunts, uncles and cousins on hand to help her with the finer points of Italian *castello* etiquette.

● CLASSY as it is, three weeks of heaving our borrowed heavy-weight Marmet pram up and down our front steps has turned me into an unlikely candidate for the British shoe-pat team. Last week I bought a copy of *Loot* and scanned the baby section. "Brand new

unused unwanted gift. 3-in-1 Marmas & Paps pram. £700 new. £350 for sale. Call Jane, Dagenham." There it was: the pram of my dreams — and still available.

Two hours after setting off for Dagenham, we reached Jane's house. Jane is one of those people who has a passionate and trying relationship with the colour pink. The ceiling, chandeliers, curtains and chairs were pink. For a moment I had a horrible feeling that I had woken up inside somebody else's womb. Then Jane herself stepped forward. Dagenham's queen of black and blue — dyed-black hair, sooty black eyes, blue toenails, black fingernails... I was beginning to back out when I caught sight of the pram, a vision of loveliness, brand new and best of all, not pink. Jane began explaining how it had been bought for a sister-in-law who had gone abroad. She then caught sight of Alice and suddenly changed her tune, putting in

a swift offer of £350 for her. At this my daughter broke into a huge smile. We had suspected all along that Alice has been casting around for new parents ever since we failed to make it to the hospital in time for her birth. After a little wrangling over exactly who wanted to sell what, the deal on the pram was done and we came home triumphant. With my newfound muscles I can lift it with one arm.

● I SEE that Britain has the highest rate of teenage pregnancies in the world and Tessa Jewell is trying to reduce it. A general distribution to teenagers of the "doll-baby" might be effective. This doll cries, eats, sleeps and defecates so its "parent" is busy around the clock changing nappies, preparing bottles, feeding, settling and washing. No matter how well he or she performs these tasks, the doll still cries. After eight weeks of the real thing, I now understand exactly how effective a deterrent they can be.

## What to do if you get asthma: stop breathing

Asthma is rising at an alarming rate. A startling new drug-free method claims to have a cure.

By Ian Murray

The statistics read like a bad day during the Battle of the Somme. Dead: 1,621. Hospitalised: 110,475. Walking wounded: 3.4 million. Cost: £1 billion. If current trends continue, these annual figures for asthma are going to get worse every year. The number of children aged five to 11 who have had an asthma attack trebled between 1982 and 1992, and one child in seven now suffers from the condition.

The number of adults seeing their GP about asthma more than trebled between 1971 and 1991, and one in five is known to have suffered serious breathlessness at some stage in the past year. Almost half the population will have had at least one episode of asthmatic wheezing by the age of 33.

Millions of pounds worth of research has not succeeded in halting the seemingly inexorable advance of the wheeze. Modern drugs control it for many, but more people are succumbing to it. Now, from the improbable source of the Siberian Branch of the Soviet



A child uses an inhaler while playing. Children are increasingly vulnerable to this frightening and debilitating disease

Academy of Science, comes a new therapy which quite literally takes one's breath away.

It is based on a theory of Konstantin Buteyko, a Ukrainian research clinician, who believes asthmatics are oxygen junkies. He argues that at times of stress they breathe in

too much oxygen, and then breathe out too much carbon dioxide. In prolonged periods of stress, deeper breathing becomes an unconscious, continuous habit and a physiological pattern.

If he is right, this hyperventilation reduces the body's

carbon dioxide and an imbalance is created. A certain amount of carbon dioxide in the body is essential. Low levels mean its smooth muscle tissue goes into spasm, creating problems in the sinuses, lungs, heart and so on. According to Buteyko, the lungs of the asthmatic sufferer react by constricting the airways, producing extra mucus and all the symptoms of the disease. Once the body becomes conditioned to lower levels of carbon dioxide the respiratory mechanism drives the sufferer to breathe more than is necessary, thus perpetuating the low levels that cause the condition in the first place.

His cure is to stop people breathing in excess oxygen and breathing out too much carbon dioxide. Patients are taught to breathe in, breathe out and then keep their mouth shut and hold their nose to stop them getting another oxygen "fix" for as long as possible.

To judge from a BBC documentary to be aired next week, withdrawal symptoms for the oxygen junkie are painful. One of the programme's three guinea-pig asthmatics given the five-hour training in the Buteyko method dropped out and the two others had strong doubts they could finish the course. The girl who dropped out made way for Alexis, a 15-year-old who has suffered from asthma since she was a toddler. Although she only took a short course she made such progress she was able to stop taking drugs — to the astonishment of her mother.

Only the hecoring insistence of the course director, Sasha Stalmatski, kept them at it. "I am not a pleasant person," he admits frankly as he drives past Donna from Glasgow to keep her mouth shut, and block her nose for an extra second. Training is arduous. A healthy person should be able to go without an extra draught of oxygen for about 50 seconds. A moderate asthmatic should be able to endure for 15-20 seconds. Bad cases like Donna give up after five. They need to be disciplined to finish the course and have to do homework, including taping their mouths shut before bed

'It is based on a theory by Buteyko who believes asthmatics are oxygen junkies'



Alexis, a Buteyko success

so that they don't breathe too deeply in their sleep.

Learning the method does not come cheap, even though it is drug-free. A five-hour course costs £290 — roughly a pound a minute — at the Hale Clinic in London where Stalmatski is the tutor. He has trained 1,500 people over the past two years and only two per cent have taken advantage of the clinic's money-back guarantee if the course fails to improve their asthma.

Donna and her fellow sufferer, a plumber and would-be golfer, both improved. The plumber took to the golf course for the first time in years and Donna enjoyed a night's sleep without recourse to an oxygen cylinder.

The National Asthma Campaign, which now has responsibility for the NHS research and development programme of asthma management, has decided that money must be

Tom Rowland says dancing isn't just for little girls



Toby Rowland, centre, in fetching bee stripes, was just one of six boys in the ballet

## Boys can dance if they want to

On a wet Saturday in July, 140 little girls aged from three to nine twirled and sparkled in their own dance version of *Alice in Wonderland* staged by the Greenwich-based ballet school DanceLand. They were joined by just six little boys, all there are in the school, and two of those are my sons. Toby, aged five, resplendent as a bumble bee in black-and-yellow striped leotard and shorts; Tommy, seven, a grasshopper all in green.

Toby, one of life's natural prop forwards, made a remarkably elegant bee flitting around the stage, letting the theatrical illusion lapse only once when he pulled up his striped shorts. Tommy hopped and skipped in grasshopper mode to the delight of his dad. At even the most enlightened dinner tables, admitting that I send my two sons to ballet

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into a line. I suspect they get the same satisfaction from doing it well as they would from hitting a good pass in football. Of course it is preposterous nonsense to suggest that a few dance classes could possibly have the remotest influence on the sexual orientation of two happy little boys in later life. But we are not exactly in the world of the rational here. Argue that it is good for their physical co-ordination, makes them more socially adept, boosts their self-confidence and helps them communicate — and eyes glaze over.

Our show was written and staged by Helen Roos, a professional dancer with a background in classical ballet and contemporary dance. Having a boy in a class does make a difference to the way she teaches, especially with the very little ones, she says. She cuts out the floppy fairy dances and instead gets the group to act out animal and bird scenes. Even the smallest boys object to fairies and are happier as kangaroos or eagles.

"With a boy there the class also has a different tempo, it is faster and the boys tend to want to get on with things, rather than sit and watch," she explains. "It makes you reassess what you are doing, so it is a challenge for the teacher."

Perhaps you can put the general lack of boys in ballet down to the end of an empire, argues Antonia Price, editor of *Dance Gazette*, the magazine of the Royal Academy of Dancing. In most colonies it was the natives that did the dancing while the robes and colonial administrators sat and watched. The tradition of court dancing died out among the English upper classes.

The Royal Ballet now has an initiative underway to encourage more boys on to the dance floor. A Chance to Dance has been running in a number of inner-city boroughs and the classes have equal numbers of boys and girls. "My own son stopped going to ballet classes when friends started to tease him. It is a shame if they are put off," says Daryl Jeffrey, head of education at the Royal Ballet.

So what happens if my two want to stop? We will let them give it up, of course. Their little sister, Cecily, aged three is already coming up behind with enormous enthusiasm. I suspect that, over the years, dancing will be one of the things that helps bind the family together... just so long as they do not expect me to join in, of course.

'My son Toby made a remarkably elegant bee'



Konstantin Buteyko at work with a young patient

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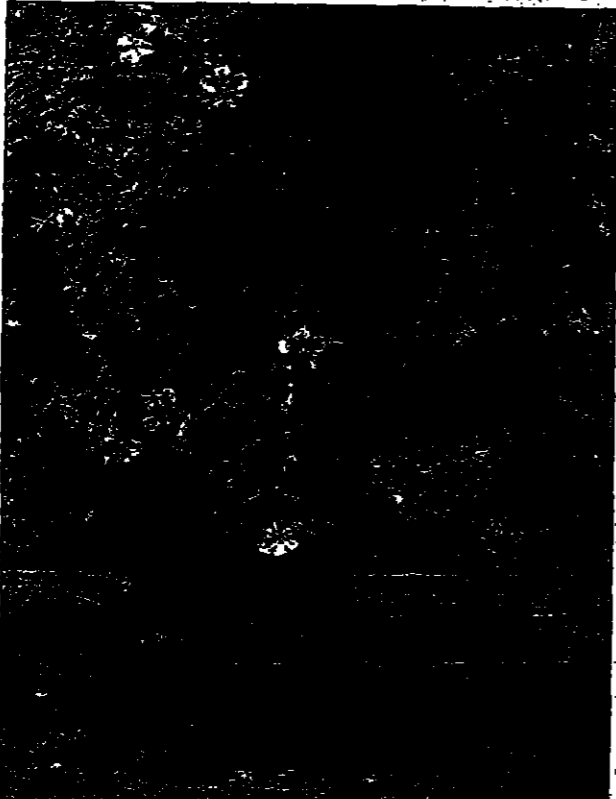
From public life to private retreat

Palladia



# From public life to private retreat

The former head of gardens at the National Trust now delights in his personal space, says Jane Owen



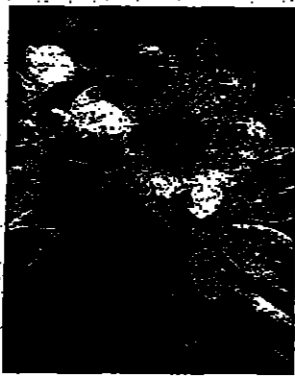
An apple tree with a climbing 'Perle d'Azur' clematis

## ME AND MY GARDEN: JOHN SALES

It is rumoured that John Sales, who this May retired as head of gardens to the National Trust, has been brought into Highgrove by the Prince of Wales to help with conservation and give the royal garden coherence. I ask Mr Sales if the rumour is true. The question brings a deft change of subject followed by tight lips. Anyway, Mr Sales is going to have his work cut out in his own garden in Gloucestershire, just down the road from Highgrove. Ironically, for a man who oversaw the great boom in garden visiting, he does not open his own.

"I can't be doing with all those signs. And anyway there is nowhere to park," says Mr Sales, who has no help at all in his one-hectare garden other than with the hedge cutting. The garden is an east-facing slope, wooded to the north, with the house at its centre. The garden covers one acre; woodland blankets an Iron Age village another acre in size and a field of wildflowers takes up about half an acre.

Climbers scramble around the house. "I love clematis such as the viticellias and I like



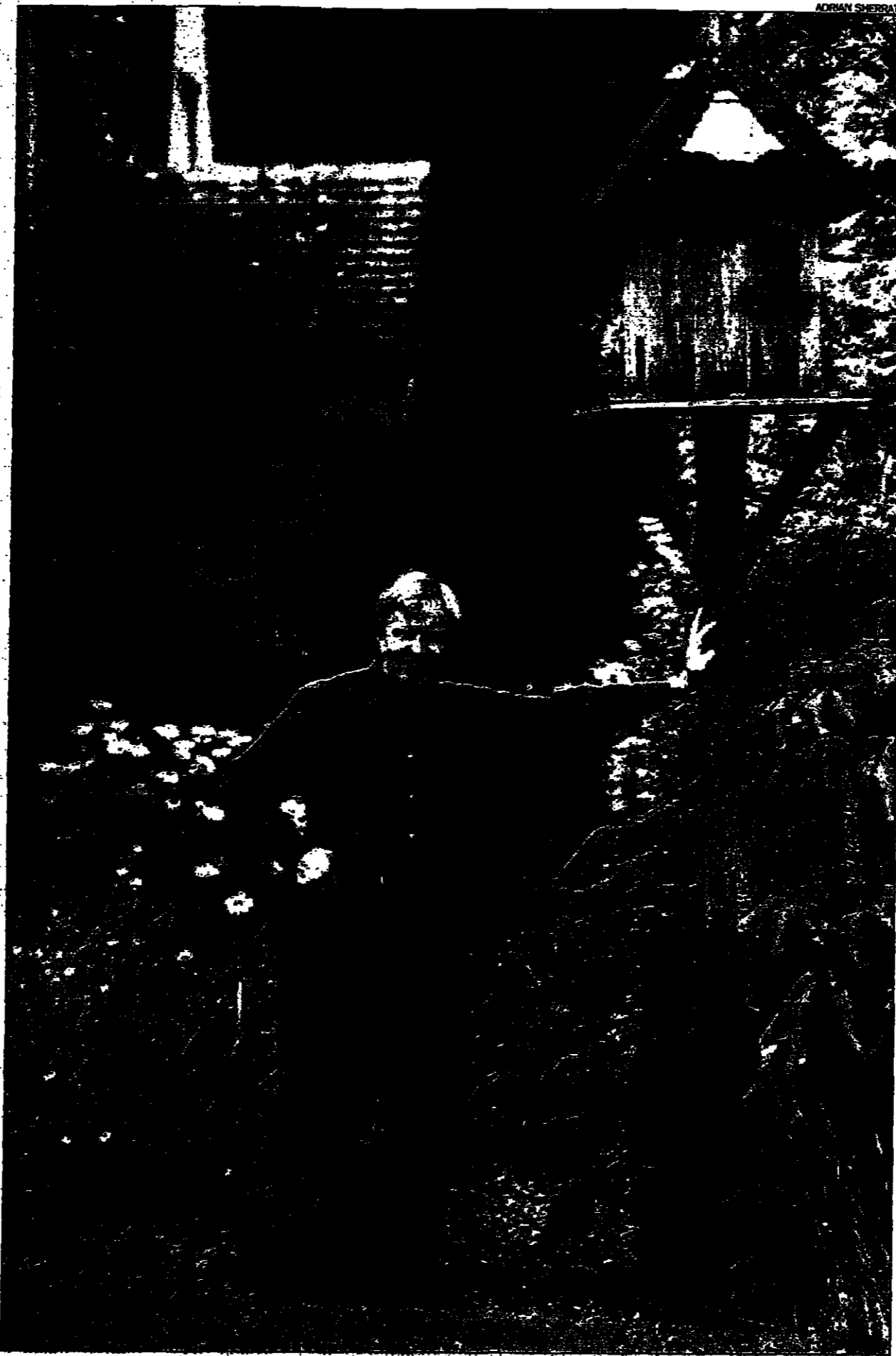
Lavatera 'Barnsley'

Virginia creeper — the *Parthenocissus tricuspidata* 'Lowii'. I expect the garden to work all year, not just to have one high spot," says Mr Sales, who trained at horticultural college and then at Kew.

When Mr Sales and his wife Lyn moved here, the beech hedges around the perimeter of the garden were 12ft high and 8ft wide, and ground elder was the main crop. It was sprayed repeatedly for a year. To the front of the house *Buddleia alternifolia* is just going over and wild thyme romps happily between the lawn and beds of shrubs.



A mixed border with the west face of the house beyond



Most gardens are "layers of history", says John Sales. A good gardener tries to be "part of that ongoing process"

conifers and a mass of geraniums. Here the main focus is the view across the valley so the colours are muted pinks and pastels. "I plan the garden so it looks good all year. This *Ligustrum quihoui* is an incredible plant and you don't often see it, and *Cornus* 'Eddie's White Wonder' is another good one. I want to turn all the grass over to gravel."

Just outside the house is a sturdy oak bench, a retirement present from the National Trust, with Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey carved in it.

To the side of the house, day lilies and a beech hedge border an orchard, with swings and a slide at the far end for the Sales's five grandchildren. In the small arboretum about 20 different hollies are interspersed between exquisite deep blue *Iris latifolia*.

"And I do this trendy meadow gardening," says Mr Sales. "The soil is poor but it is good for wild flowers." He mows different areas of the meadow at different times to give differing displays of wildflowers, none of which he has planted. Bee orchids often appear, but this year the only one to emerge is in the main garden.

The sheer quantity of planting in the main garden, never mind the quality, is breathtaking. Vast mixed beds almost 20ft wide surround a rectangular lawn. Unusual shrubs such as *B. alternifolia argentea* give height at the



A stone figure along a walk

centre of a sea of roses, clematis, penstemons, hostas, phlox, pulmonaria, iris, geraniums and box balls. Muted blues and pastels parade at the back while the northern border is a riot of heat: hot red and yellow pokers, dahlias and day lilies.

Composting takes place in the old orchard. "I don't have time to play around with fancy compost heaps, so we throw all the composting stuff in here and let the chickens scratch around in it. Then we dig it out. But it doesn't get rid of the weeds," says Mr Sales.

Stourhead is Mr Sales's favourite garden. Even with all those ghastly rhododendrons, "Don't be squeamish," he admonishes. "They are part of its history." Pope is his muse. A



Helianthus Morheim 'Beauty' adds to the riot of colour

quote that develops the famous idea of seeking the genius of a place is carved into a stone surround circling a weeping ash: "Paints as you plant and as you work designs."

That is the greatest thing ever said about making gardens and it has been my philosophy at the National Trust," says Mr Sales. His work at the Trust has won him a few critics. Historic gardens set a perplexing spectrum of problems for their guardians: balancing the needs of visitors with those of the garden, and fulfilling the need to reflect its history without setting it in aspic.

plans be adhered to rigidly or should new plants be brought in, as they would have been by the garden's creator?

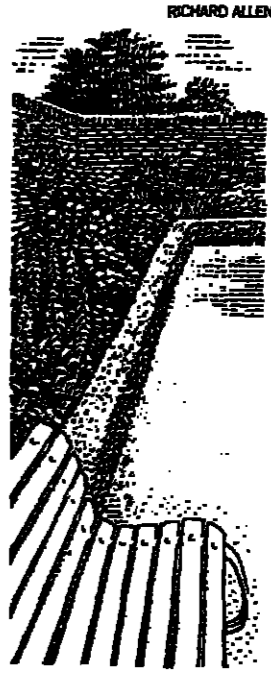
"It is like doing a new production of an old play. Most gardens are composed of layers of history so all you can do is try to be part of the ongoing process," says Mr Sales. "The architecture of a garden is the theatre and props, but what counts is the performance. It's a matter of making sure the structure is right and that the action takes place as well."

"You can do Shakespeare in modern dress or traditional costume, or music with period instruments. But if you use modern instruments it doesn't mean that it is worse — just different. I'm all for that."

## STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

**Q** We are restoring an 18th-century walled garden. The paths are edged with small box hedges which are now too wide (8in) and too tall (20in). They are perfectly healthy. Can we reduce their dimensions in both directions? Do we do it all in one go, or a side at a time? — *B. Harrison, Colchester, Essex.*

**A** What height hedges do you require? These hedges are probably made of the dwarf box, *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' which is very slow-growing. You could cut it right down to 4-5in in February, but it will take quite a few years to get back to 12in. Such hard cutting would be fine if you only wanted hedges 6-9in high, or if the hedges had many gaps at the bottom. Since the hedges are healthy, for 12in hedges I would cut them a side at a time and then the top, in February, over three years. Cut back cleanly with secateurs to a line 2-3in within the intended new profile, to leave room for new growth. And feed and water it like mad so it is healthy when you start cutting. If you think you have ordinary box, which is much faster growing, you could cut it right down and be back to the new profile in 2-3 years. You may find it useful to see a copy of my forthcoming



**A** Rotary compost bins work well for small quantities of compost. They work on the sound principle that turning the bin every day loosens the contents and admits oxygen to all parts, thereby speeding up decomposition. However, when they are full turning has less effect on the contents, and when they are almost empty the contents struggle to build up enough heat, especially as they are raised up in the air. For small-scale gardeners, they are fine. I prefer a bin which is bigger and sits on the ground. Heat insulation, periodic manual aeration and compost accelerators (such as Biotal) will speed up the process of decomposition, whatever system you use. Tumbler bins are available from Blackwall, price £49.95 (0870 6010217).



**Q** I bought a wintersweet (*Chimonanthus praecox*) five years ago. I was promised "highly scented yellow winter flowers from November to March". It has never shown the slightest sign of a flower. What do I do? — *G. Horan, Wiltshire, East Sussex.*

**A** Some forms of wintersweet flower far better than others. But not to flower at all is inexcusable, especially in such an otherwise dreary shrub. They can be slow to start flowering, but you have waited long enough. Prune it back hard by 30 per cent next March to outward-pointing shoots. Give it a mulch of some decent old compost. Shock tactics can sometimes provoke it into getting down to business. It also needs warmth and good light to ripen the flowering wood.

**Q** What is the legal position on bringing back plants from the Continent? I do not want to break the law, but I have been tempted by some plants I have seen when on holiday. Also, what is the position on seeds from further afield? — *S. Lawson, Cambridge.*

**A** If you are returning from EU countries, you can bring back plants, fruit or vegetables which have been grown there. When returning from non-EU countries all you can bring back is "up to 2kg of fruit and raw vegetables (not potatoes)" and "up to five retail packets of seed (not potatoes)". You can also bring in "a single bouquet of cut flowers or parts of plants", which should cover you for bringing in unrooted cuttings. For more information, see the leaflet *The Travel Bug Can Be Contagious* (PB1799) from MAFF Publications (0645 556000).

**Q** A friend has extolled the virtues of her tumble compost maker. It is the size of a small dustbin and only needs a turn a day to produce good garden compost. What is your opinion of tumble bins and where could I get one? — *V. Law, Paddock Wood, Kent.*



# Palladian landscapes

## GARDENS TO VISIT

**Rufford Old Hall**, Rufford, near Ormskirk, Lancashire. Seven miles NE of Ormskirk. Open Sat-Wed, noon-6pm until Nov 1. £1.80, free to National Trust members. Today there is an estate trail for families. £1 (01704 821254). THIS is a rhododendron garden but it is well kept and has a good structure. The lawns around the timber-framed house have topiary squirrels in memory of the red squirrels which have been forced out by grey ones, and box hedges, balls and spirals. Colour comes from perennials. There is an orchard of Victorian apples which still fruit, as well as pines, woodland and sheep in the meadow.

**Chiswick House**, Burlington Lane, London W4 2RP. Five miles W of London off A4. Gardens open daily until Nov 1. 10am-dusk. £1.50. Check for times after Nov 1 (0181-995 0508). TO THE left as you look at Chiswick House is a cascade which has a fall of 2.5m and is 1.5m wide. It was designed in

the 1730s by William Kent and made in 1738 but the contemporary hydraulic system installed was not up to the job. In a letter to her mother, Burlington's daughter wrote: "The water comes in to the river very fast but it dries (sic) up in a minute." Last year English Heritage got it working successfully for the first time in its history. Chiswick House itself is a perfect Palladian villa built in 1729. It inspired the owner, Lord Burlington, to commission Kent to create the 26-hectare landscape. The result includes woodland, an Italian garden, a yew *patis d'oe*, a large lake, brightly planted bedding, filled parterres and, closer by the house, more formal gardens with an avenue of cypresses and an avenue of mop-head acacias and large urns. The large conservatory is a later Victorian addition.

One of the most photographed areas of the garden is one of Kent's masterpieces: a white porticoed temple beside a circular pond and surrounded by orange trees in white tubs.

**Wrest Park**, Silsoe, Bedfordshire. Off A6 east of Silsoe village. Open weekends and bank holidays 10am-5pm until Nov 1. £2.95. English Heritage will be holding concerts at Wrest on August 22-23. For details ring 01525 860152. During the week ring Kirby Hall (01536 203230). THIS landscape of pavilions, canals and secret corners deserves to be better known. Built on a grand scale during the 18th century for the tea family, the de Greys, Wrest's 150 acres are being restored gradually so that none of the magic of a slightly overgrown landscape is lost. Mown paths lead through wilderness areas to a fine, airy Palladian summer house, classical ruins and unexpected statues and vast Greek vases. New this year are two white painted lead statues, a Harlequin and a Columbine, in the orangery.

The first sight of the garden is dominated by a large, dull Victorian terrace with parterres and a large number of statues which gives no hint of the enchanting atmosphere beyond. A long canal leads to a large 1710 pavilion by Thomas Archer, an ideal place for trysts, packed with



The restored cascade at Chiswick House, a magnificent Palladian villa

small rooms and heated by fires hidden behind painted panels. A series of woodland walks leads to a serpentine pool with a Chinese pavilion.

The main garden was probably designed by Batty Langley in the early 18th century. Later that century some of his

work was de-formalised by Capability Brown. Dominic Cole, the garden historian, brought in by English Heritage for the first stage of restoration, rates Wrest Park as one of his favourite landscapes.

JANE OWEN



Wrest Park's new arrival, Columbine



# Some prickly customers

According to one nurseryman at Hampton Court, thistles were big this year. He could have sold a lot more. But which thistle? Probably *Onopordum nervosum*. You cannot get bigger than that. It is a prince among thistles.

There are two *onopordums* in gardens. One is the native Scottish thistle, *Onopordum acanthium* (meaning "of the spines", and it really does mean it). It will get to 8ft. But if you really want big, then go for *Onopordum nervosum*, which is just as tall but has bigger and smoother leaves. Both are silver grey, and a good specimen in full sail is like a brutalist sculpture. Both are biennials. They establish themselves in year one, and flower and die in year two.

*Onopordum nervosum* has a relatively modest first year. Pot-grown seedlings are put out (or self-sown ones arise) in early summer, and in good ground and plenty of sun they will annex an area of border 2ft-3ft across during the season, smothering everything around them with foliage. This first year you can grow them as a foil for late tulips or allium 'Purple Sensation', or let white galtonias spear through them in high summer.

In a Suffolk lane this year I passed a group of *onopordums* growing on a bank down to the road. There was just the flash of silver as I passed, shot through with scarlet opium poppies.

In the first winter the *onopordums* retreat, but their powerbase is established. The tap root is down deep, and wily feeder roots have

Thistles are this year's trendy newcomer, says Stephen Anderton



*Onopordum nervosum*: the prince among thistles can grow to 8ft and will smother everything around it in silver-grey foliage

run out sideways. Everything is in place for an offensive in the spring. Worried? There's no need to be. *Onopordums* do not run or make themselves a nuisance in the long term. Let them run to seed and you will have many a seedling next year. When spring comes, things happen quickly. The silver foliage of occupation shoots out again side-

ways in a big rosette. And from the centre, startling white and grey, it starts to rear up, a great branching stem, winged and spined, and astonishingly fast. But like all monsters, it has its Achilles' heel. It moves too fast for its own good. It cannot quite support itself. It grabs a neighbouring shrub for support. It leans on the delphiniums. Until

finally there it is, a great shining superstructure of spines and silver grey foliage, casting hard shadows, and even finding energy to make 2in purple thistles on top.

As the flowers form, the foliage becomes shabby. A gale will come along and loosen its grip on the soil. It reels and staggers, and threatens to drag its supporters down with it. Its side branches may collapse. It retreats on all fronts.

In a formal garden this is the time to pull it out. Get in there with a fork and a pair of gloves. In wild gardens you may want to let it subside naturally, sodden thistle heads pecked by birds or swung down to the ground on sprained branches.

In a border, the demise of an *onopordum* creates a power vacuum. The neighbouring plants will breathe again, and newly admitted light will tempt them back into the space. Clematis, potted *argyranthemum* or *datura* can be slotted into the gap.

Of course, *onopordums* will grow in poorer soil, as long as it's sunny. Shade takes the metallic brightness off the foliage, and makes them weak. In poorer soils they are smaller but tougher, and they certainly stand better.

But what of my roadside Suffolk thistles? Next year they will be leaning out and grabbing passing cyclists, no doubt. I shall make a point of passing by there again next summer, in time for the show. For these are one of the great ephemeral plants, along with giant hogweed and *phytolaccas*. A fine stand of them is never forgotten.



*Onopordum acanthium*: in full sail it is like a brutalist sculpture



■ Sow winter spinach in rows 1ft apart for cropping from November right through spring. Green and ruby chard (leaf beet) can also be sown now for winter cropping and ornament.

■ New strawberry plants can be planted between now and early September. 15-18in apart, with a yard between the rows. Plant them in soil which has been enriched with manure or old compost.

■ With shears or secateurs, trim the flower stalks of lavender bushes and hedges to a point just behind the first leaves, and pinch out the strongest existing or subsequent non-flowering shoots to encourage bushiness next year.

■ Begin cutting out the old wood from early-flowering rambling roses such as 'Albertine'. Keep perpetual roses well dead-headed to encourage new flowers.

■ Give liquid tomato feed to late-flowering clematis such as 'Jackmanii' every two weeks, and water weekly in hot weather.

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# It came from outer space

Stephen Anderton stumbles across an intimidating sight lurking in a jungle of exotica at Morecambe Bay



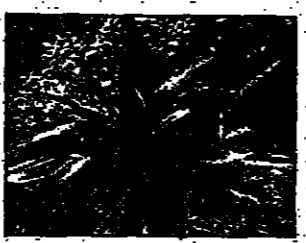
Phormium tenax, originally a native of New Zealand

What grows by the sea in Cumbria, in stony, lumpy soil over bedrock, under a rumbling 70in of rain a year? In Christopher Holliday's garden it is phormium, the New Zealand flax. Lots and lots of it. He has got the phormium bug.

The garden is in Grange-over-Sands, at the top of the town, on a 45-degree slope overlooking Morecambe Bay. The house, a much-improved 1950s bungalow, perches halfway up a series of 10ft deep terraces. To reach it, you must climb the steps through the lower garden under a skyline of jolly heather and conifers.

Then suddenly you are there, in a jungle of modern foliage gardening. Cabbage palms, yuccas and phormiums set the Monte Carlo tone, with sheets of osteospermums below, leaning their willing, daisy-like sun.

The paved terrace in front of the house contains newly planted islands of phormiums in shades of red and plum and purple. Beyond the terrace the



Fine phormiums: The 'Dazzler' variety on show

land drops sharply away to the town, and the edge has been lined with phormiums so that when you sit indoors or on the terrace there will soon be a jagged horizon of leaves against the blue sky of the bay.

I would be tempted to plant the giant fern *Ferula communis* into the horizon too, to throw up its broom-handle spikes of flower in imitation of the giant *Agave americana*, which you see silhouetted on the slopes of Athens.

Behind the house, and above it, is the most remarkable part of the garden. It is backed by tall, cliff-top pines and yews, ten years ago it was just lawn with a few old apple



Phormium fanatic Christopher Holliday with a 'Tricolor', whose spectacular spikes can grow as high as 6-8ft

trees. Mr Holliday says he cannot bear grass or any kind of clipping. "It always looks like work to me." He was fed up with carrying grass clippings and prunings 50ft down to the bins.

So it all went. Now the upper garden is an oasis of exotic planting, set in a matrix of soft bark paths and driftwood logs. There are cistus, acacias, young Chusan palms and ornamental vines. Tender grey-green *Melanthus major*

is thoroughly perennial, and the Mediterranean privet *Pittosporum tobira* produces its heavily perfumed flowers.

When I was there, a fine clump of the New Zealand bayonet plant, *Aciphylla squarrosa*, was carrying three spikes of flower, all covered in vile, multi-directional spines. Remember the moment in *Alien* when the creature bursts its head out of John Hurt's stomach? They look at you in just the same way.

And then there are the phormiums. Mr Holliday has 35 varieties now, some in great, generous drifts. Best in his garden is *Phormium cookianum* 'Tricolor', a variegated form that was found as long ago as 1880.

The strappy, evergreen leaves are striped silver, cream and green and rise up for 2-3ft, then bend over for another foot, making a lovely arching mound. The flower spikes rise up to 6-8ft and then

give way to clusters of long, swinging pods which change colour as they ripen, from rich walnut to dark oak.

The foliage is just as crisp and colourful in the winter sun as it is in summer and, as Mr Holliday points out, there is next to no work with phormium - no pruning, no clipping. All they need is the spent flower stalks cut down in autumn and any untidy leaves cut out in spring. His largest group of 'Tricolor' has plants

### PHORMIUM FACT FILE

- Phormium enjoys good drainage but plentiful rain. The less frost the better. Seaside gardens suit it very well. Fierce winds can split the foliage. Watch for a new problem, phormium mealybug, which attacks the base of the leaves. It is controlled by spraying with malathion.
- Nurseries specialising in phormium include: Ballyroan Nurseries, The Grange, Ballyroan, Newtownards, Co Down BT23 4SD (01247 810451, evenings only); Burncoose and South Down Nurseries, Gwenapp, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6BJ (01209 861112). Range available autumn onwards.



Phormium foliage is as colourful in winter as in summer

of the smaller and paler 'Cream Delight' in front of it to make a gentle variation. But bolder by far is Mr Holliday's plan for the steps to the upper garden. They rise like a staircase between loft retaining walls and there is a bed at the top on both sides. It will be a phormium tunnel.

The beds have been planted with a backing of *Phormium tenax*, which has sea-green, upright foliage to 6ft and flowers with upright seed-pods way above that. Immediately beside the path are opposite pairs of new *Phormium cookianum* hybrids, whose leaves will arch over the wall top and put up a canopy of arching flower stems and weeping pods to meet in the middle.

"I have this thing about *Alice in Wonderland*," says Mr Holliday. "I want the foliage to be massive, to make you feel very small." It is a trick that works. In an alley behind the house, above a wet, north-facing wall clad in a green curtain of "mind-your-own-business" (*Soleirolia soleirolia*), a clump of *Gunnera manicata* throws up its huge umbrella leaves. Its warty trunks and dark rhizome, hairy as a dead badger, meet you at eye level as you round the corner. Never mind white rabbits; Sigourney Weaver, where are you when I need you?

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# Sit Fido, while I go round the bend

Pet owners do not realise that dogs need seatbelts just as much as humans do, says John Young



Leaning out of car windows is not good for dogs

For many people a well-groomed dog gazing benignly from the back seat of a gleaming convertible might seem the ultimate style accessory. But this week the AA and the National Canine Defence League issued a joint warning that, unless proper precautions are taken, the animal may not only be at risk of its own life but is a potentially lethal hazard to humans.

According to the NCDD, an emergency stop or crash at 30mph can turn a small family pet such as a West Highland terrier into a canine cannonball if it is hurled from the back seat at the head of someone in the front. A larger dog such as a Labrador will be catapulted through the car "with the force of a baby elephant". Yet, although all car passengers are required to wear seatbelts, there is no legal requirement to restrain animals.

Andrew Howard, the AA's head of road safety, says: "It is a mystery to us that caring dog owners, who regard their pets as part of the family, insist that their children wear seatbelts for every journey, yet let their dogs travel unrestrained." Colette Kase, an NCDD animal behaviourist, adds: "People think they are being kind in giving their dog the freedom to bounce around the car, but actually dogs feel much safer secured in a travel kennel or wearing a harness. As long as they have enough room to sit up, turn round, lie down and stretch, they will be perfectly happy." Ms Kase

also recommends that puppies be trained from an early age in how to get in and out of cars safely and not to leap out of the boot or windows. Dogs should not be allowed to hang their heads out of the window while the car is in motion, as this can damage their eyes, and distract other drivers. "Car travel is not natural for a dog, so he will need time to get used to the experience and learn how to behave," she points out.

The importance of a harness has been confirmed by research which found that at just 30mph an unsecured Springer spaniel, weighing 50lb, becomes a "trussle" with a kinetic force of 1,000ft/lb. Yet, according to Petplan, the animal insurance specialists, more than three-quarters of owners in Britain take their dogs in their cars without any safety measures.

Since a quarter of all households have dogs, the potential risk to both canine and human life and limb is not something that can be easily ignored. But ignored it widely is, by both car manufacturers and those responsible for road safety.

The Department of Transport points out that, since the Highway Code emphasises the need to "keep animals under control in cars and prevent them from distracting the driver, having an unrestrained dog in a car could be construed as driving without due care and attention. But the law does not require the use of restraints and few, if any, insurance policies impose any conditions. The experience of



Although David Jones's three Hungarian vizslas love rides in his convertible, he takes them out only when they are restrained

one Petplan client, Barbara Spencer, of Rochester, in Kent, testifies to the value of such restraints. When their camper van overturned on the A1, she and her husband were saved from injury by their seatbelts. So too was their dog, Romany, which was left dangling by its safety straps instead of being thrown out of the window and into the path of traffic.

Less fortunate were the owners of Teddy, a golden Labrador, which leapt out of a car window and jumped over an embankment on to another car, doing £800 worth of damage and incurring veterinary fees of more than £300. Mrs Spencer describes Romany's lifesaver, which she uses on every journey, as similar to a guide dog's harness attached

to an ordinary seat-belt. But there is generally little information available on the relative efficacy of safety restraints. Tests conducted using dummies by the Allianz Centre for Technology in Germany suggest that some may be relatively useless. A simple safety net was torn from its moorings merely by the force of the impact of a poodle-sized dummy weighing just 14lb.

A larger net mounted between the floor and the roof became detached in a crash even before the dummy smashed against it. Both projectiles slammed at high velocity against the front seats or windshield. The same thing happened to a larger Alsatian dummy, weighing 88lb, in a harness when the stitching of

the chest belt tore. The results persuaded the centre to develop a prototype device consisting of a rectangular frame of steel pipes, held in place by two vertical supports and secured by straps. It is claimed to withstand forces of between 2.5 and three tonnes, with a good chance that the animal will not be injured.

But many owners, however concerned for their pets' welfare, would consider that too elaborate and expensive a solution. The RSPCA maintains that simpler and effective harnesses, which can be easily secured to existing seat-belts, are available from pet shops and car accessory suppliers. "We would always advise

people to secure dogs in cars with harnesses, not just for the animals' protection but for their own as well," an official said. "It's especially important in the case of convertibles, since in an accident the animal is otherwise likely to be thrown out of the vehicle."

"We would emphasise that the harness must be secured round the animal's chest. Obviously it should not suffer discomfort while travelling, but preventing it from moving around will reduce the risk of the driver being distracted."

Ted Chandler, president of the British Veterinary Association, agrees that it is "only sensible" that dogs should be restrained in cars. Harnesses are frequently used in animal training, so in many cases the

dog will be used to wearing one, he points out. But it is important that the harness should be attached to the car with something much stronger than a simple nylon cord, which would almost certainly snap under the strain of a serious impact. "Although I believe a wide range of harnesses are available, I am not aware of any comprehensive guide published so far," Mr Chandler said.

"For small dogs travelling in the back of cars, we would in any case recommend the use of wire cages secured to the floor, which give them more freedom of movement and are probably safer than any harness. Best of all are estate cars with special sections in the rear separated by bars."



ROAD TEST

IT'S ALL very well insisting that dogs should be restrained in the car but it has to be done when the dog is young. My three-year-old Jack Russell, Jumble, behaved well in the car until I bought a convertible. Jack Russells see themselves as the Spitfire pilots of the dog world, and she was liable to project herself over the side like a cork from a champagne bottle at the sight of a cat, dog or cyclist.

Road accidents are the commonest cause of premature death for this breed so the need for her to be tied in became apparent. Off I went and spent £11.95 on a harness. The packaging made it sound awfully simple: "Just fit the harness to your pet and attach it to the seat-belt". It had obviously been designed with less spirited dogs in mind. Jumble struggled violently, making it difficult to get the thing on and then became demented, running around in circles and trying to bite the harness off. Because she is overweight, like a tin of Chum with legs, it was also uncomfortably tight. When I removed it, I made the mistake of leaving it within her reach and she chewed it to ribbons.

I tried a conventional lead, tying the end to the door handle. But as I walked away, she bounded over the side and was left hanging at the end of her tether.

Convertibles are not ideal for dogs, for although they get more fresh air, they find it harder to stay out of the sun and they dislike the throatier engine. They are also more likely to be stolen.

The problem was finally solved by my husband. He lent me his nice sensible saloon and tied Jumble firmly to a metal loop in the boot, out of reach of the sun roof. She settled down comfortably while he drove off to the answer in what he calls "The Chick Magnet".

MARY ARNOLD  
● Car harnesses from £11 from Waggers (01392 381235)

## Ragwort is spreading through the country, killing horses desperate for nourishment. Carol Price reports

### Pretty yellow flowers full of poison

This is the worst summer in living memory for ragwort, the highly toxic plant that poisons hundreds of horses and ponies every year. Thanks to a mild winter and a warm and damp early spring, the plant is flourishing in fields and paddocks and on grass verges everywhere.

A spokesman for the RSPCA says: "Everyone we have spoken to, out in the field, says they have never known a year like it."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) confirms the problem. "It appears that warm summers and warm winters over the past couple of years has resulted in a much greater spread this year," he says.

The British Horse Society (BHS) is so concerned at the danger to the country's 650,000 horses and ponies that, in conjunction with the RSPCA, it has launched the first ever National Ragwort Week (August 17-23) to promote better awareness and encourage the eradication of this toxic weed.

Although sheep and cattle are also affected by eating ragwort, classified under the Weeds Act 1959 as "injurious", horses, being non-ruminants, are known to suffer particularly from its toxic effects which can take a cumulative toll on their livers and digestive systems, sometimes over several years.

By the time the first real symptoms of ragwort poisoning appear — sudden loss of condition, poor appetite or constipation — the liver damage can be irreversible. Neurological symptoms, such as blindness, partial paralysis and unco-ordinated movement, which are seen in advanced stages of the poisoning, can mean a horse is only hours away from death.

This year John Levison, a vet from East Yorkshire, has already had to destroy two horses which were suffering in this way. He says: "The worst thing about ragwort is that the toxic effects it produces have usually done their damage before the really obvious symptoms appear. If we catch horses, via a liver biopsy, in the very earliest stages of the poisoning we can save them. But they will still, nearly always, have to be on special treatment for the rest of their life."

The weed becomes even more dangerous when it is baled up in hay. "When dried it is just as toxic to horses, but also far more palatable because it tastes less bitter."



Horses graze in a field with ragwort; by the time symptoms of ragwort poisoning appear, the liver damage can be irreversible

Only really desperate horses and ponies would eat ragwort fresh in pasture," says Mr Levison.

Michael Elwick, farm manager of a centre for the International League for the Protection of Horses (ILPH) in Norfolk, has seen ponies who have been that desperate. They were some emaciated yearlings he rescued from a bare, grassless field on the north Norfolk coast. "They were so starving they had been eating bark and earth. One filly was actually seen with ragwort in her mouth, as it was about the only thing left to eat. By April she was dead from liver failure."

Ragwort, typified by crinkly, jagged leaves and bright daisy-like yellow, daisy-type flowers, is a biennial. In its first year it appears in clusters of flat-topped green rosettes before shooting up into flower the next year. But it remains, according to Nicholas Gregory, of the BHS, "one of those weeds nobody notices or recognises until you point it out to them". Ms Gregory thinks that land



British Horse Society staff pick ragwort at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

owners and local councils should be put under more pressure to clear ragwort from set-aside land and roadside verges. "Time and again," she says, "I have horse owners ring me up to say, 'What can we do? Every time we clear our fields of

ragwort we just see another sea of yellow on the horizon which we know is going to spread and which no one seems interested in doing anything about." Although strictly speaking MAFF has some responsibility to

halt ragwort's spread, a spokesman says: "This responsibility is only on agricultural land. Even then we don't have any actual physical or legislative powers to make landowners remove it. We can only offer advice on how to do so."

However, horse welfare groups are determined to press the message home. "Ragwort," says the ILPH, "is an indiscriminate and cruel killer. Unless horse and land owners act now to clear it properly from fields and verges, they might get to see its dreadful effects for themselves."

- Ragwort is a ruthless opportunist and survivor. Each plant can produce up to 15,000 seeds which may lie dormant in soil for up to 20 years.
- To avoid contaminated hay, ensure your supplier can guarantee his crops are all ragwort-free.
- Although ragwort is most obvious during July and August when in its flowering stage, it needs to be tackled much earlier to prevent its spreading. For advice about ragwort eradication and control, send an SAE to: The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0NU.

### A VET WRITES

Q We were held up behind a herd of cows last weekend and they had white numbers on their behinds. The children wanted to know why the cows were marked and if the numbers were stuck on or painted. What is the answer?

A They were freeze branded, to help the herdsman know one from the other. A branding iron is chilled in dry-ice — solid carbon dioxide — and then pressed on to the cow's hide. The intense cold kills the top layer of the skin containing the hair follicles and when new hair grows it comes out white. It's a painless procedure, permanent and easy to read in black, red or brown cows, but no use on cows with white bottoms.

Q Snowy, my two-year-old miniature poodle, has a slipping patella and has dislocated it at least six times in the past two months. The first time I rushed her to the vet and he straightened her leg, pressed it, and within a minute or so she was walking normally. He showed me what to do and since then I've been able to help her, but I'm told that the only permanent solution is an operation. Will this be a certain cure? I want her to have a litter next spring.

A Nothing in this world is certain, but the majority of operations to correct a slipping patella are successful. The patella is a small bone which runs in a groove at the lower end of the femur — our kneecap. If the groove is too shallow, or if the femur and tibia are not properly aligned, the patella can slip and then it's an ineffective pulley. There are two ways of correcting this, either deepening the groove or repositioning the ligaments. If your vet advises an operation you should take his advice, but I think he'll also advise against breeding from Snowy. A slipping patella is inherited and she could pass on the problem.

Q What should I do about the wax in my cat's ears? It doesn't seem to worry him. Someone suggested using cotton buds and mints and I've been told that olive oil helps. Or is wax normal and best left alone?

A A small amount of ear wax is normal, but dark brown deposits suggest some irritant — an ear mite is a common cause. Removing wax won't remove the cause so ask your vet to have a look at the ears. Ear drops will deal with the mites and once they're gone the excess wax will be gone, too.

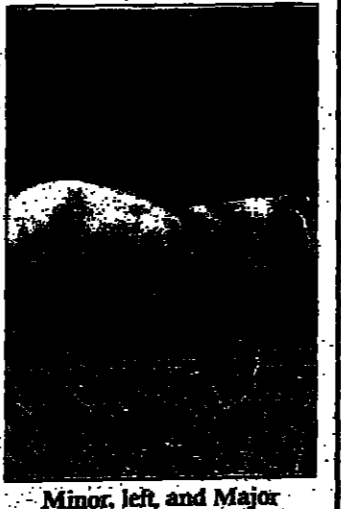
JAMES ALLCOCK

### ADOPT ME

MAJOR and MINOR are two-year-old ferrets who were found by the side of the road two weeks ago.

They are shy, but with constant handling will become tame. They can be separated but should ideally be adopted by experienced ferret handlers who would be prepared to use them as working animals. They would need to be housed outside in a secure unit.

If you are interested in adopting Major and Minor, please contact Linda or Steve at the Blue Cross Adoption Centre in Southampton (01703 692894).



Minor, left, and Major

Better late than never

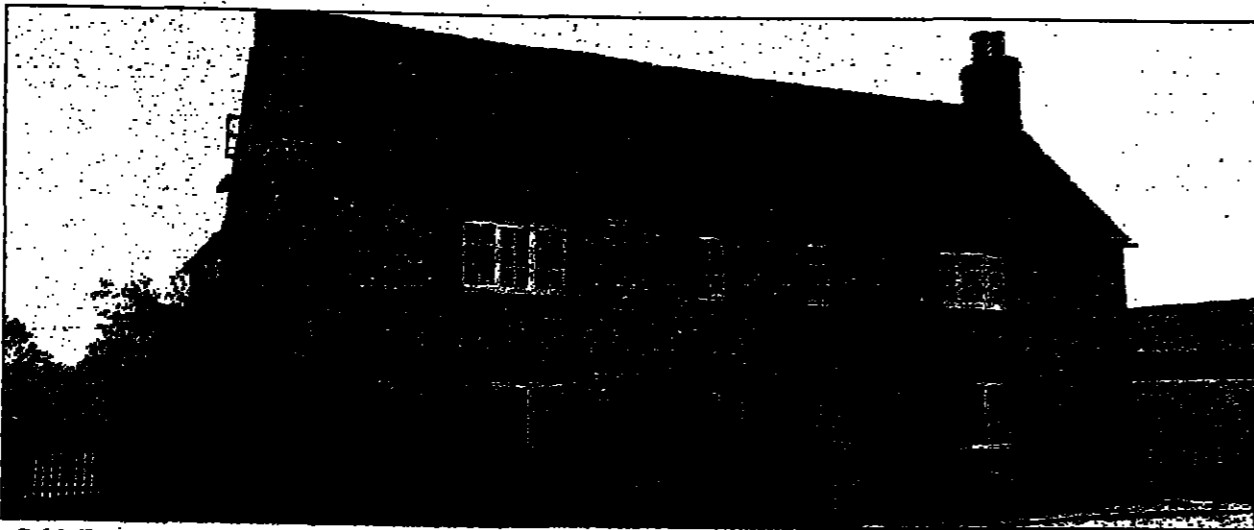






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# When life gets too hectic on the hoof



Soley Farm is on the market for £24 million. The house has been restored in traditional style by Mrs Phillips' mother

Despite having been married to Mark Phillips for 18 months, Sandy Phillips cannot live with him at Gatcombe until she sells her own farm. Lin Jenkins reports



The 200-acre property in the Kennet Valley, with ten paddocks for stallions. Mrs Phillips with her husband Mark, right.

## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Anyone listening to Sandy Phillips eulogise about the pristine accommodation for horses at her 200-acre farm nestled high in the Kennet valley could be forgiven for thinking that she nurtures a single great passion.

However, it is her other love which has persuaded her that, after 18 months of marriage to Captain Mark Phillips, the couple really ought to share one home. At present they operate an ad-hoc shuttle service between her Soley Farm in Chilton Foliat, near Hungerford, and her farm on the Gatcombe Estate near where his first wife, the Princess Royal, lives with their two children Peter and Zara and her second husband.

Since the birth of Mrs Phillips's daughter, Stephanie, ten months ago, the logistics of running a successful equestrian training and show centre and being married to a man who lives nearly 100 miles away have proved difficult.

The problem is compounded by the fact that both travel widely: Mrs Phillips competing in Europe and teaching in her native United States and her husband teaching and building cross-country courses around the world.

Sitting in the comfortably informal red-walled sitting room of her flat farmhouse beneath an oil painting of a grey horse, she is surrounded by photographs of family and of herself competing at international level in eventing and dressage.

She says: "I love it here but it is impossible. The farms are just too far apart. Mark is away a lot so I tend to stay here, but now he is planning to be here a bit more and there is a lot he has to do over at Gatcombe."

"It gets worse as Stephanie gets older. I want to do it now before she thinks of it as her house." Perhaps the situation



Soley Farm has an indoor school and Mrs Phillips has added two outdoor arenas

reflects the slow burn of the couple's love affair. Cautious after previous relationships, they began dating discreetly after the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, but waited five years before marrying in Hawaii on her father's estate in February 1997.

This weekend the Phillips family will be together at Gatcombe for the horse trials. Mrs Phillips will be doing a display of dressage to music in the main arena on both days, and prays that the mechanical hitch in the tape machine last year does not repeat itself.

She will partner her second-best horse, Albert, because her most advanced horse, Fun, or "not so Fun" as she refers to him when he misbehaves, is shortlisted for the British team for the world championships in Rome next month.

Fortunately the horse box is roomy and can take horse and the paraphernalia of baby and nanny between the two homes. Recently, when competing in Italy, she drove the horse box with Stephanie's cot, clothes and food, while the baby and nanny flew out to join them. "I couldn't believe how much stuff she needed," she says. It did, however, serve to fuel the nagging doubts that were beginning to form about maintaining two separate



The comfortable sitting room, with red-painted walls

homes. "I was hoping that we could run both but since we have had Stephanie it is very hard. As she gets older it is going to get worse. This is a big place and it takes lots of my time and I really want to ride," she explained.

Among the paying guests in the 48 stables in three American barns is the US event squad. Riders and horses fly in each year for Burghley and Benheim and stay on to receive jumping training from their coach, Captain Phillips and dressage tuition from his wife, who was one of the US team selectors for the Atlanta

Olympics. Other clients include established and up-and-coming dressage and event riders from Britain and abroad.

Dressage competitions at both affiliated and unaffiliated level are held regularly and even the local pony club has managed to persuade the elegant American owner to allow them to use the facilities.

Mrs Phillips, or Sandy Pflueger as she was then, is the daughter of a former racing driver who went on to run lucrative car dealerships. She originally planned a decade ago to find somewhere in England set in around 30 acres.



Sandy Phillips with her horse Fun in front of the house at Soley Farm. "I love it here but it's too far from my husband"

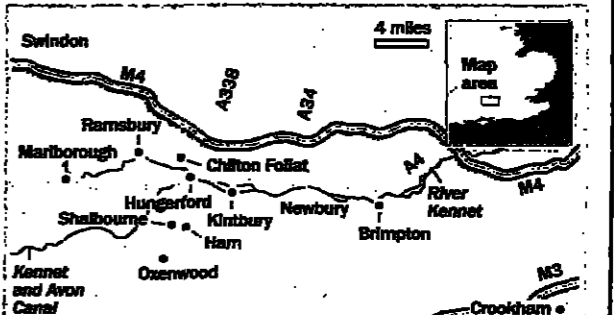
## MARKET COMMENT: HUNGERFORD

THE PRIME AREA for country houses west of London is Berkshire, east of Newbury, according to Henry Holland Hibbert of estate agent Lane Fox. "Hungerford is not quite premier league because it's a bit further away from the city, but it's definitely first division," he says.

For the successful City people who form the nucleus of the newcomers buying country homes in this area, ease of commuting is important. Hungerford is three miles from the M4 and, although not on a fast rail connection, it is only eight miles by road from Newbury and 15 miles from Swindon, from where trains to Paddington take under an hour.

Hungerford is a pretty market town full of estate agents and antique shops, but many new arrivals head for the Kennet valley, which offers excellent trout fishing and a collection of desirable little villages strung along the river and, east of Hungerford, the picturesque Kennet and Avon Canal which runs alongside it. Apart from Chilton Foliat, popular spots include Kimbury, Ramsbury and Inkpea; nearer London, Crookham and Brimpton command even higher prices.

The rolling hills to the south of Hungerford provide plentiful opportunities for riding, hunting and shooting, and villages such as Shalbourne, Ham and Oxenwood attract would-be buyers. The basic attraction of the area is a rare but much



prized combination of accessibility and "real" countryside. Brick or brick and flint buildings dominate, with a variety of housing styles dating across the centuries. Expect to pay around £200,000-£250,000 for a two or three-bedroom period cottage, and £500,000-£600,000 for a five-bedroom farmhouse with land. An edge-of-village manor house with three or four acres will be £800,000. Mr Holland Hibbert says this area has seen "substantial growth" in the past two years: up to 15 per cent from April 1996 to April 1997, and around 10 per cent for the 12 months to April 1998.

FAITH GLASGOW

When the purchase of another property fell through after she had already made arrangements to move her horses from her base in Germany, the former thoroughbred stud owned by Justin Hayward of the pop group the Moody Blues seemed irresistible.

Her mother was installed to help oversee the gutting of the farmhouse and its restoration to a traditional style, while she extended the indoor school and built the first of two outdoor arenas. The property, now on the market for £2.4 million, also boasts three groom's cottages, ten immaculately

fenced stallion paddocks, and planning consent for two further cottages, a groom's flat and offices. Questions about the house are dismissed with a wave of an elegant hand, but the same hand will happily pick up a handful of the oiled sand and plastic surface laid in all three arenas. The surfaces of the schools were chosen through trial and error, and one gets the impression that the matter was thought more deserving of her attention than the mere trifle

of interior design. The garden, too, gives more than a hint as to her priorities — no flowers, no garden furniture, just a few shrubs and trees in a lawn which could never be described as manicured.

The picture is clear long before Mrs Phillips explains that she spends at least five hours a day in the saddle and relies heavily on her nanny, a couple who "do" and a brilliant farm manager.

Her desire to remain in such an idyllic setting with her horses is implicit in the fact that she was planning to build a splendid new house. Permis-

sion has been granted for a 5,700sq ft Georgian-style country house designed by Derek Baker, complete with swimming pool, sauna and gym. The new house will have spectacular views across the Kennet valley.

However, instead of building the dream home she will move in with her husband. The lack of a swimming pool and sauna bothers her little, but she has plans to convert his farm buildings into some luxurious stables and to mirror her own palatial indoor school.

Agents: Lane Fox (0171-594 4785).

### LONDON RENTALS

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# The fringe benefits of Edinburgh's new parliament

A clamour for smart housing in Scotland's capital has generated bids of nearly double the asking price, reports Mark Porter



Sellers' market: since the low point in 1995, supply cannot keep up with demand in places such as Leith Waterfront



Thrice outbid: Robin Cook and his new wife Gaynor

The Edinburgh market is booming as never before. Earlier this year, the first £500,000 flat was sold in Scotland, in the city's West End; such accommodation is selling for £200,000 more than the asking price. The reason, in case you have not already guessed, is the new Scottish parliament.

It may therefore come as a surprise to learn that even the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, so recently involved in an acrimonious bust-up with the former Mrs Robin Cook, has been struggling to find a new home in Edinburgh.

Since last winter, the red-bearded figure of Mr Cook has been seen bobbing up and down the portalled steps of houses with the smartest postcodes, with his new wife, Gaynor Regan, at his side. At least three times elegant addresses have come frustratingly close to being his, and three times it would appear that he was outbid.

But now friends of the Foreign Secretary report that he has, at last, found a discreet three-bedroom luxury apartment in the city's Merchiston area, near Napier University. Gossip aside, property prices have just begun to exceed the inflammatory levels of the late 1980s. The

second quarterly figures just released by the Edinburgh Solicitors Property Centre (ESPC) show a year-on-year increase of 11.43 per cent in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

The Edinburgh figures confirm Scotland's generally subdued housing market, where prices are expected to rise by between two and four per cent this year. The average house price is £66,000; in the city centre it has risen to £94,222 in the past 12 months.

"Our second-quarter statistics show increases almost right across the board, with very significant rises in certain key areas," says George Clark, chairman of the ESPC. "Generally, in the city centre they are up by 18.71 per cent on last year."

"These latest figures continue to reflect a growing confidence in the City of Edinburgh in the run-up to the arrival of our Scottish Parliament. However, while it will be some time before Scottish parliamentarians and their staff move in en masse, it seems that many Edinburgh folk are choosing to move this year, in advance of a further anticipated rise in demand."

"Marchmont and Bruntsfield have consistently proved to be extremely popular areas, helped by their proximity to the university and the major teaching hospitals. Price rises



Edinburgh, already home to the famous Fringe Festival, is attracting home-buyers to the city due to the prospect of a new Scottish parliament

of 18 per cent and above in the first and second quarters of this year suggest that supply, within these areas at least, is failing well short of demand.

"The effect of price hikes for city centre property also seems to be rippling out to the suburbs and to the Lothians. Rises recorded in the suburbs, for instance, appear to be higher than they have been for some years — in some cases beating city centre rises."

"Many are now househunting further afield. In East Lothian, sales have gone up by 54 per cent in the last year, with a similar figure for West Lothian, while in Midlothian, prices have increased by more than 13 per cent."

According to Peter Lyell of

## A three-storey Victorian house went on the market for £325,000 and sold for £520,000

Edinburgh property solicitors Burness Lyell (the job of selling property in Scotland is more often performed by a lawyer than by an estate agent), the market had reached a low point in 1995.

"Almost imperceptibly it took off. At first people stayed quiet about it, but during last year, it burst into life, only to explode during 1998. In some parts of Edinburgh we are witnessing 20 to 40 per cent

continuing to go up at this rate," says Mr Lyell.

The West End has seen a strong return of people moving back to the city. Big houses have been bought by developers and turned into flats worth £250,000 and upwards, which are being snapped up by those who are fed up with commuting, as Edinburgh becomes gridlocked — London-style.

In March, frustrated demand for exclusive properties led to the record-breaking sale of a three-storey Victorian apartment in the capital's West End, which went on the market for £325,000 and sold for £520,000.

A small pool of properties and the prospective buyers' frustration at losing in the

bidding system has led to offers way in excess of asking prices. A three-bedroom Victorian flat in Marchmont sold recently for £62,000 more than the £18,000 asking price, while a semi-detached family home sold for £95,000 more than the £290,000 being sought.

Expatriate interest from financial centres such as Hong Kong and Singapore has also led to a greater demand for properties back home, as financiers witness the collapse of Pacific Rim markets.

Given this scenario, perhaps it is scarcely surprising if the humbly paid Foreign Secretary has struggled to compete with the upper echelons of Edinburgh society.

## Diary of a househunter

**MONDAY**  
I visit the subsidising flat for the first time since we put in an offer. I am looking for an excuse to withdraw because of the psychic's warning. I ignore the weeping willow, and focus on the woodchip wallpaper and the window that sinks down on one side.

**TUESDAY**  
I make an appointment to see the promised identical one-bedroom-plus-bathroom flat on the same road which goes on the market tomorrow.

**WEDNESDAY**  
The sprightly old woman who greets me at the door



has lived in the flat for 17 years. It is immaculate. All sash windows and fireplaces have been restored professionally. It is £7,000 more expensive, however. The agent says it would have been £10,000 more, but for the avocado bathroom suite.

**THURSDAY**  
Before putting in an offer I have to fix a time for my husband to see it. I tell the agent the coincidence of his best friend Tim buying in the same area.

**FRIDAY**  
"The agent calls to ask if I mind being near Tim. 'Not at all, why?'"  
"Because they are buying the flat bang next door to the old woman."

**EMMA MAHONY**  
Next week: the offer is accepted

**EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES**

## Save £20 on a classic chrome fan

Today *The Times* offers readers the chance to buy this stylish chrome steel fan, saving £20 on the normal price. The retro desk fan is a classic Thirties design and has three speeds (max rpm 1,250), 90-degree oscillation and tilt adjustment. This 16in desk model measures 56cm high x 45cm wide x 30cm deep. The price is £79.95, giving a 20 per cent saving on the mrrp of £99.95. Fans come with a two-year guarantee and full EU electrical safety approval. Simply post the coupon today, or call our 24-hour order line on 0181-543 8889. Free delivery on all orders.

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Desk fan	1	£79.95	

**24-HOUR CREDIT CARD ORDERLINE: 0181-543 8889**

**CHANGING TIMES**

## Ending the deposit dismay

Builders are persuading renters to buy with special offers, says Diana Wildman

As the housing market slackens and fears of further interest rate rises continue, housebuilders throughout Britain are offering financial incentives to get first-time buyers on to the housing ladder.

Of the 150,000 new homes sold in the past year, 40,000 were to first-time buyers, many lured by money-saving offers. Housebuilders desperately need to maintain a significant slide of sales.

One major problem for young first-time buyers is not lack of sufficient income, but the ability to save up a substantial deposit because of the high levels of rent they are paying. Several housebuilders now "pay" the five or ten per cent deposit of a buyer who is then able to obtain a 90-95 per cent mortgage.

Leicester-based Dean Campion and his partner, Michaela Baker, both 22, have good jobs, he with the Midland Bank and she with East Midlands Electricity. They had been paying £350 a month in rent, were keen to buy, but were stuck without any deposit.

"We knew it was stupid to rent, but saving a deposit was difficult, not least because, having graduated last summer, I am still paying back my student loan," says Ms Baker.

"Last spring, we saw an ad for a new 250-home development being built by Barratt East Midlands at Rancilife Gardens, Braunstone, 20 minutes' walk away from the city centre.

"The builders were offering to pay a five per cent deposit, £350 towards the legal fees, to throw in carpets, kitchen and bedroom units and lay lawn in the new garden. So we bought a two-bedroom semi for £49,450, minus the five per cent and obtained a 95 per cent mortgage, which costs us around £400 per month. We were the first owners to move in last May.

"For the same price we could have bought a more spacious two-bedroom Victorian house but, apart from the deposit problem, we both work long hours and have no wish to spend all our free time renovating a house. Here, we have a clean palette."

There is a downside to all this. Because the couple were among the first buyers, they knew they would be living on a building site for at least the next two years.

"It is dusty and noisy and there are no proper roads yet," says Ms Baker. "But prices on similar homes now being sold have risen to £52,500."

Housebuilders have another strong card to play in attracting potential purchasers. They usually have a show home and an on-site sales office open during the weekend, sometimes offering mortgage and legal information in a one-stop operation.

So many estate agents only offer a five-day service, which simply doesn't fit in with

were given help with their deposit, legal and financial costs, and the house was carpeted. "We still had to furnish the house, but without the financial help we could not have thought about buying at all," says Mr Welch.

Sebastian Blanchard, 26, and Cathy Port, 25, are typical of so many purchasers in the South East who are faced with paying vast sums for a seemingly modest home. Both were prepared to commute some distance to their west London offices in order to obtain an affordable, smart home.

With the lease about to expire on their rented flat, they shopped around various new schemes in and around Redhill, in Surrey, and chose a two-bedroom flat, priced at £98,000 at Maple House, a scheme of 21 flats five minutes' walk from the station.

"The price included fitted carpets and a washer-dryer, plus a contribution towards our legal fees and removal costs," says Ms Port. Indeed, 12 flats at Maple House were sold to first-time buyers.

Today's first-time buyers are astute and will shop around to find the best package for their needs. And housebuilders, mindful of the mess they found themselves in during the early 1990s, are more aware than ever of the need to fulfill the criteria required by buyers.

● Rancilife Gardens on-site sales office: 0116 254 1451 (open every day, 10am-6pm); Maple House on-site sales office: 0171-71529 (open Thursday to Monday 10am-6pm); Eton Fields on-site sales office: 01753 537260 (open every day 10am-6pm).

**For W**

**HOME SWAP**

Advertisement for home swap services, including details of the service and contact information.



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# For whom the division bell tolls

**Barton Street has long been a favourite with politicians and media folk. Ronald Payie charts the rise of plotters' corner**

The creator of Briton Street, now a stylishly quiet and exclusive corner of political London, was none other than Barton Booth. In an age of giants, he combined a flamboyant career as actor-manager at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane with the much less luvvie skills of a successful entrepreneur.

As a property developer of style, he bought a parcel of Westminster land in 1710 and created a street named in his honour. By way of an excuse, he then produced Cowley Street alongside and gave the name of his country estate at Cowley in Middlesex.

His 18th-century credentials seem to have been impeccable for he married Hester, a leading dance actress star of the time. And she had also been a former mistress of the great soldier the Duke of Marlborough.

Speculation about whether Barton had married above his station emboldened the hags and wits of London town at its time to put it about that the Barton Street houses were conveniently arranged for its blades of the Court of St James to disport themselves, with an easy sedan chair ride, what the French call the *houc de cinq à sept*. It became known as a place for amorous rendezvous.

The fact is that now, lane lorded largely by the Chancery Commissioners, this street and Cowley Street provide London pads for political and media folk, as well as for more respectable people. Being within five minutes' walking range of Parliament for even the most untalented peer or MP, an handy for the television killing ground of St Stephen's Green, it does attract the attention of representatives of the people.

It could easily become a plotters' corner for politicians and their hangers-on. What a place for a well-funded lobbyist to

## FAMOUS FACES OF "THE REAL WESTMINSTER'S"

**Lord Reith, founding father of the BBC, lived in a former pub in Barton Street.**

**Harold Wilson took a house in Lord North Street.**

**The Liberal Democrat HQ is at 4 Cowley Street.**

**Barton Street: the houses on the left date from 1722.**

**Three famous residents:**

- Tarquin Gordon, MP for Bournemouth**
- Actor Sir John Gielgud**
- The late Sir David English of the Daily Mail**

**St John's church in South Square is now a concert hall.**

**The London restaurant serves curries to politicians.**

**Michael Howard launched the Tory leadership bid from Jonathan Aitken's house in Great College Street.**

**Lady Thatcher stayed with Lord MacAlpine in his Cowley Street house.**

**Lawrence of Arabia worked on The Seven Pillars of Wisdom, published in 1926, No 14 Barton Street.**

arrange cosy meetings with ministers of the Crown. Harold Wilson, when he was Prime Minister, used a Barton Street house as an escape from the constrictions of Downing Street. Margaret Thatcher borrowed Lord MacAlpine's place in neighbouring Great College Street during her term of office. John Major headquartered his leadership campaign in Cowley Street.

When the Liberal Democrats moved into the district, Derek Kemp, a long-term

Barton Street resident, suggested that as the neighbourhood was going down, rates ought to be reduced. A keen and amiable chronicler of the locality, he makes it sound like an up-market version of *Coronation Street*. They even hold street parties though these take the form of a few decent bottles of claret in the drawing room or garden rather than treatise, tea and buns.

When Mr Kemp ran into John Tsang, the Chinese trade commissioner, then newly installed at the house on the corner owned by the Hong Kong Government, he invited him to dinner at his city guild. The occasion was only slightly marred by the fact that the principal speaker, the Chinese ambassador, misinterpreted his brief and continually described the Worshipful Company of Basket Makers as the Basket-Makers.

A couple of oddly paired famous persons merit the blue plaques that add distinction to

the street. Lawrence of Arabia lived there for a while and attracted attention by climbing into his own house instead of using the front door. On the corner was to be found at one time the stern figure of Lord Reith, director-general of the BBC at the height of the public service of broadcasting. Oddly enough, his house had once been a pub.

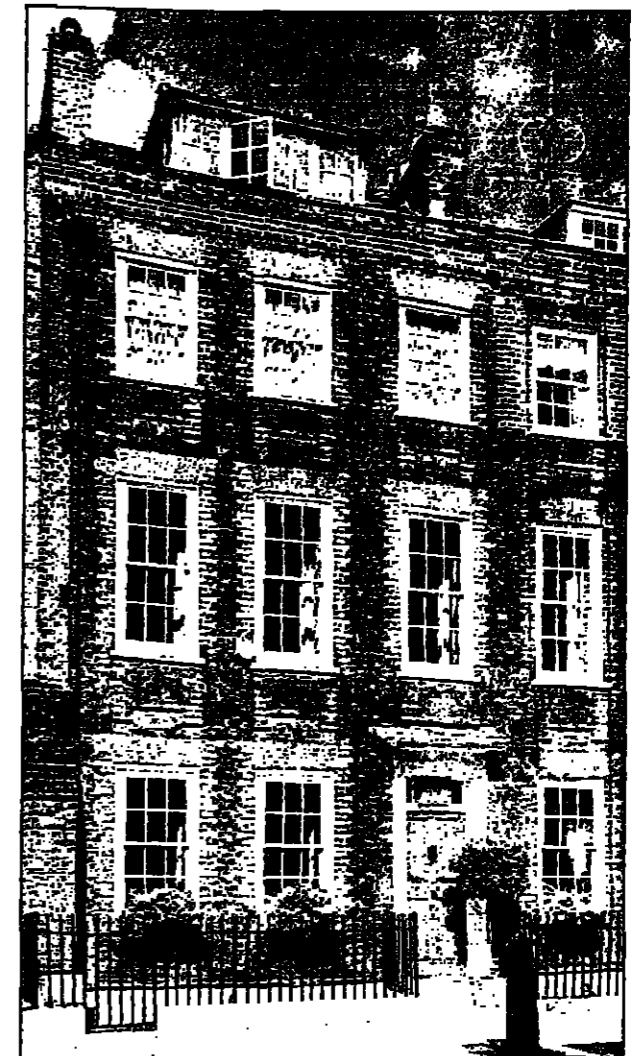
It is possible that a third plaque may be added. Sir David English, famous as Editor of the *Daily Mail* who died recently, had a house there. He was not the first journalist to inhabit the street.

Indeed, in 1909, F.S.A. Lowndes, then Editor of *The Times*, moved into No 9, the house now on sale. His wife Marie, the only sister of Hilaire Belloc, called the place "the real Westminster". She was charmed by the garden: "I planted tulips in spring and geraniums in summer."

By the turn of the century things had begun to change. Mrs Belloc Lowndes noted in her book *The Merry Wives of Westminster*: "I had not been long in Barton Street, however, before I became aware of what changes can take place in even a very quiet part of a great town within a few years. For one thing we found that the four line streets, of which Barton Street is one, were attracting the attention of Members of Parliament and important government officials."

How different must have been the atmosphere 100 years ago from that of our own more politically correct times. When I entered the discreet drawing room of 9 Barton Street, pausing to admire the huge original door lock with a massive key concealed in a tiny cupboard alongside, the feeling of the place was cosy and respectable. Whatever the past of this pine-pannelled home, it is now the very picture of a demure Queen Anne town house. It

has three compact floors, three bedrooms, a lot of stairs and a lift in what was once a wooden medieval tower alongside. The fact that it is being offered for sale for just under a million (£975,000) might cause an envious wriggle or two in the grave of Barton Booth. I am not entirely sure whether a couple of centuries have socially elevated this little-explored bit of London or not. As



For sale: No. 9 Barton Street, a fine townhouse



No. 9 still has the original door lock, and the splendid pine-pannelled sitting room

## HOMI SWAP

LONDON'S PIMLICO, with its white stucco terraced houses and garden squares, is the poor man's Belgravia. House prices in the area have increased more than 4 per cent in the past three years. You might pick up a small terraced house for £370,000, but expect to pay at least £550,000 for a four to five bedroom house. Flats start at £150,000 for one bedroom.

A shortage of period houses in Manchester's former stockbroker belt, up to 25 miles south of the city, is forcing up property prices around Altrincham, Knutsford and Poynton. Victorian semi-detached houses start at £200,000 for four bedrooms and country houses from £300,000.

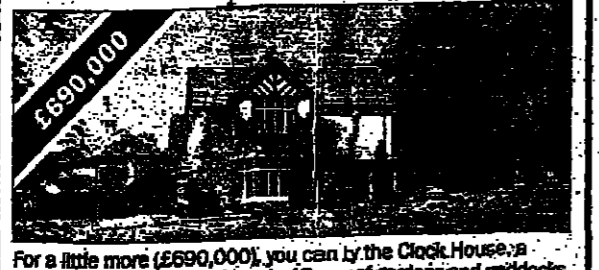
Waterfront properties in north Cornwall are highly sought after, despite price rises of up to 25 percent over the past two years, according to John Bray. The village of Rook, perched on the Camel Estuary facing Padstow, is a popular haunt. You might find a two-bedroom bungalow for £75,000, but houses with sea views cost rather more. Inland, a stone-built three-bedroom detached house can be had for £115,000.



This Grade II listed four-bedroom Victorian terraced house, with a west-facing rear garden, in Cambridge Street, Pimlico, Central London, has a price tag of £850,000 (Chilton Daniel Smith, 0171-730 0303).



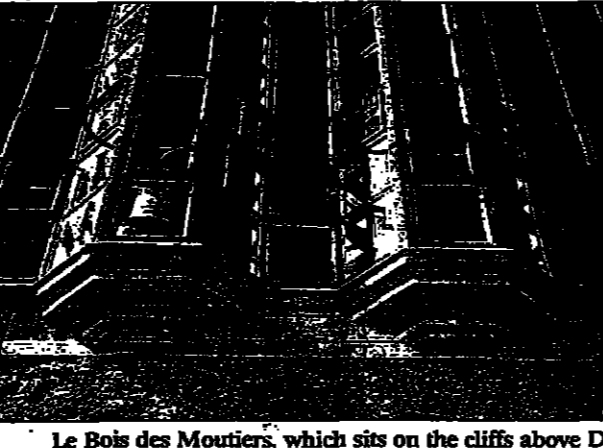
The same sum will buy Tramear, an impressive stone-built nine-bedroom country house in 13.5 acres of formal gardens and paddocks at St. Turly, close to the north-west coast. It comes with a coach house, outbuildings and a 10-bedroom lodge cottage (Knight Frank 01392 423111 and Strain & Holborow, 01872 274646).



For a little more (£690,000), you can buy the Clock House, a seven-bedroom country house in 13 acres of gardens and paddocks, near Malpas, Cheshire. It has a range of traditional outbuildings, stable block and an indoor swimming pool complex (Knight Frank, 01743-629 8171).

## A marvel of creation

Rachel Kelly toasts the restoration triumph of a Lutyens house.



Le Bois des Moutiers, which sits on the cliffs above Dieppe, has windows reminiscent of an Elizabethan manor house. The Arts and Crafts influence is evident in its design

The house was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and inspired by Gertrude Jekyll. Yet Le Bois des Moutiers hugs the cliffs above Dieppe and its owners are as French as the garlic they grow in the extensive kitchen gardens. Now, 100 years after it was built, the final lick of paint has been applied in time to celebrate the house's centenary and a 44-year restoration programme. The festivities culminated in the arrival last month of the British ambassador Sir Michael Jay to toast a very Anglo-French alliance.

The restoration team has enjoyed the unusual good luck of having access to archives detailing the house's original decor and the layout of the garden. The fabrics for the curtains and furniture were designed by William Morris, and supplied by Liberty, which still has a complete archive of all its original hand-blocked print designs. The store has also shipped over original furniture built in the Morris and Co workshops in South London which was designed for the house and had since been separated from its historic home.

To mark the centenary, the Art Workers Guild in London, a group of architects, painters, sculptors and craftsmen set up in 1883, will present the Mallet family, who own the house,



wealthy retired army officer, met Lutyens, then 29, through some English friends. Monsieur Mallet commissioned Lutyens to build a house as a monument to his twin loves: music and England. Emmanuel Ducamp, a decorative arts specialist and president of the Friends of Le Bois des Moutiers, says: "It is incredible that a French gentleman, before the First World War, should commission a British architect who was only 29 to build a house and then assign British craftsmen and artists to supply him with materials and designs."

The house is designed around a 100 square metre central music room with wood panelling and decorative plasterwork which catches the eye of the 200 people who attended the festivities. The grand six-metre wide staircase sweeps

from the entrance hall to the first floor which has six bedrooms and five bathrooms. The second storey was originally the servants' sleeping quarters but the eight bedrooms are now used for guests. The house is characterised by wood panelled rooms, with small-paned windows reminiscent of an Elizabethan manor house. The white washed rooms have polished floors and simple arches - all features of the Arts and Crafts movement which sought to revive medieval craftsmanship. Despite its triumphant beginnings, the house suffered during the war when it was used by the Germans.

Monsieur Mallet died in 1945 but his son, André, daughter-in-law, Constance, and their children, Robert, Constance and Claire, decided to restore Le Bois. Robert remembers standing with his father surveying the wreckage and asking him whether to sell the house after the war. "No, no," he replied. "We must rebuild." All three children now live in houses in the 80-acre grounds and their mission has been to preserve and enhance their inheritance. The Mallets have tried to keep faith with their grandfather's vision of a garden as a living canvas. Great swathes of borders are "painted" in different colours and the beds are once again full of rhododendrons and hydrangeas. The house and garden is, as Robert Mallet says, "a marvel of creation". Around 50,000 visitors, many of them British, are expected to come and marvel. Guillaume Mallet would have been proud.

Additional research by Zara Bishop.



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# He turns the great into the good

Michael Seed, who inspired many high-profile Anglicans to move to the Catholic Church, has a profound faith, says Damian Thompson

When it was revealed that Tony Blair attends Mass at Westminster Cathedral even if his Catholic wife and children are not with him, the cry went up from seasoned religious correspondents: "Is he about to join the Seedlings?"

What is a Seedling? A dictionary definition might read: *Seedling n.* Public figure, typically a Conservative MP, who has been instructed in the Roman Catholic faith by the Rev Michael Seed. See *Gummer, the Rt Hon J; Widdecombe, the Rt Hon A; Gardiner, Sir G; Clark, the Hon A.*

It all began about six years ago, when the Church of England voted to ordain women priests. That traditionalist John Gummer was the one who "popped" first, followed by Ann Widdecombe and Sir George Gardiner, who was received into the Roman fold shortly before being ejected from the Tory one. Finally, it emerged that Alan Clark, of all people, may cross the Tiber (presumably after a record-breaking session in the confessional). What these four disparate Tories have in common is Father Michael Seed, a cherubic, 41-year-old Franciscan and adviser on ecumenism to Cardinal Hume.

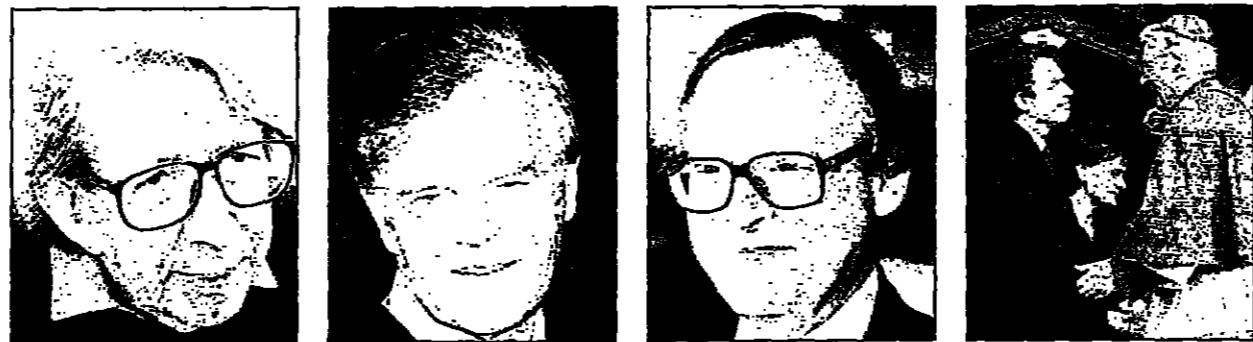
Why Father Seed? Probably they had met him at a party: most Conservative MPs have, in the twilight of the last Government, an essential embellishment to a smart Tory bash was this frizzy-haired friar, looking star-struck and sometimes bemused as well-oiled grandees hovered over him asking spiritual advice. Chris Patten tried to fly him out to Hong Kong to act as his unofficial chaplain; the Duke of Norfolk is a fan.

**"You can tell him the most shocking things and he never turns a hair"**

Asked about Seed, Alan Clark neatly sidesteps the question of his own spiritual intentions and offers a historical perspective instead. "There has always been a Catholic priest of indeterminate but important rank who has an entrée into society, to the governing class, to the great houses where decisions are made," he says. "That sums up Father Michael — but the great thing is that he never seems to be on the make. He's lovely fun to be with. You can tell him the most shocking things and he never turns a hair."



Ann Widdecombe, Conservative MP, is received into the Catholic Church in April 1993 by Father Michael Seed



MPs Sir George Gardiner, Alan Clark and John Gummer have all become Catholics; Tony and Cherie Blair after Mass

found myself in a room at a party which was given over to dope-smoking. The door opened and there, to the smokers' horror, was Seed in his Franciscan habit. "Ah, in-cense," he beamed and waved a blessing, before diplomatically withdrawing.

described as "Hail-Mary-well-met". His spirituality is as potent as it is elusive and, somehow, as much in evidence when he is making small talk over cocktails as when he is celebrating Mass in Westminster Cathedral.

It amuses some people that a priest with the title of "ecumenical officer" should spend so much time helping Christians leave other churches and sign up for Rome. But Seed's credentials as an "ecumenical officer" are impeccable. He can understand other denominations because he has belonged to several. Born a Catholic, he was brought up in the Salvation Army, switched to the Baptists, briefly joined the

Church of England and finally found his way back to the Catholics. And all by the time he was 18 years old. Nothing in Seed's career is as extraordinary as his broken childhood which explains so much: his intense need to make as many friends as possible, to find a cosy place in the heart of the Establishment

and yet to reach out to the margins of society. He was born Steven Wayne Godwin, the illegitimate son of an Irish girl, and adopted as a baby by Joseph and Lillian Seed of Manchester. His adoptive father was a warder at Strangeways; his mother was a troubled woman whose distant manner Seed now realises was the result of tranquillisers. He remembers a joyous fifth birthday party but nothing happy after that. They were made homeless, forced to live with his adoptive grandmother in Bolton; then Lillian laid herself down on the line of the local branch railway — a line Seed had to cross every day on his way to school. "From that day on I became a recluse," he says. Two years later his adoptive father died of a brain tumour. Schooling "became too painful" and he was sent to a home in Roch-

up and disgorged taciturn men in sunglasses and black suits ("Perfect," says Alan Clark). "Politicians, noblemen, the RA — and now the Mafia." Back in Britain, Cardinal Hume employed him; and it was here that the first of the Seedlings came over to Rome: his wheelchair-bound grandmother, aged 90. Viddecombe and Gummer aren't the tip of an iceberg of disaffected Anglicans. Since 1993 about 400 Anglican clergy have become Catholics. May hesitated because the Catholic bishops did not seem to want them. "At times it seemed the only person who understood the depth of our unhappiness and confusion was Michael Seed," says one former vicar. "Some of us would still be Anglicans if it weren't for his patience and encouragement."

**"Some of us would still be Anglicans if it wasn't for his patience"**

Seed is not universally popular. The liberal wing of the Catholic Church dislikes "traditionalist" converts and portrays Seed as a snob. They are wrong: unlike most "society priests", Seed displays indifference to where people went to school, or how much they earn, or how clever they are. Most of the time he lives life of Franciscan simplicity — £35 a week. At the heart of Seed's approach is a belief that religion should reflect the transcendent beauty of God which his feels has been forgotten by the modern church, with its slick Masses and 1960s-style stateliness. He is a conservative with a soft heart.

In his amiable progress round London, Seed earns the Catholic Church goodwill and good publicity that no money can buy. He understands something that most modern bishops do not: that in today's over-stocked spiritual marketplace, people respond more readily to a radiantly kind personality than they do to vacuous homilies about Justice and Peace. "The Church should take the risk of promoting him. If Blair does eventually become a Catholic, who better to receive him than Bishop Michael Seed?"

A lean and hungry look

Ruth ...

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Church

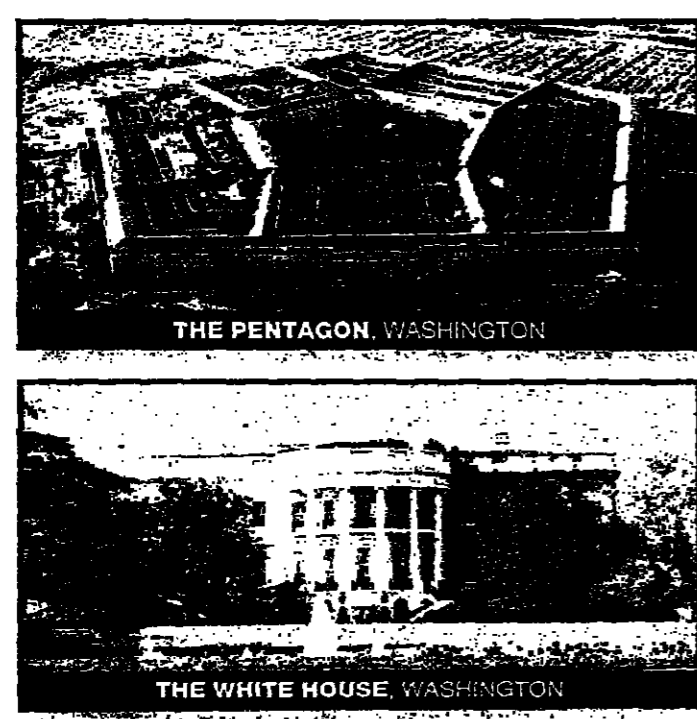
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## AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

# WIN AN X-FILES HOLIDAY



Readers of *The Times* have the exclusive chance to win an exciting VIP fly-drive holiday for two to America, tailored for X-Files fans, courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox. Our crossword has been specially devised to coincide with the release here on August 21 of the X-Files film, starring David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson. FBI special agents Mulder and Scully are drawn into a web of intrigue while investigating the mysterious bombing of a Dallas office building — and the secrets buried inside.

**HOW TO ENTER** For your chance to win a VIP trip to America, you must successfully complete the X-Files crossword, below. You must also complete the tie-breaker on the entry form, in less than 10 words. Send your entry, before Tuesday, September 1, 1998, to: *The Times*/X-Files Competition, PO Box 5070, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FZ. No photocopied crosswords will be accepted.



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Why I would like to see inside the Pentagon \_\_\_\_\_

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick

- ACROSS**
- 1 Most of you, note: Mulder had here (6)
  - 5 Get this one quickly, partly for (6)
  - 10 Can an unarmoured body, strongly sexual with one partner, be (6)
  - 11 Greater approach to law, not period, we know (7)
  - 12 How do you manage to (6)
  - 13 Each to his own, remarkable creature (4)
  - 16 ... as a ... between 3 and 17, (each) (7)
  - 19 As given to Mulder (4)
  - 21 What did get from the scene of investigation, never more? (7)
  - 22 Place captured on film, Somalia or Mexico heard (10)
  - 24 Mulder's conspiracy with Gies had to follow (6)
  - 25 Security personnel in a double (6)
  - 29 What when Mulder and Scully met in political conspiracy (5)
  - 30 Person of key importance to big shot returned (6)
  - 31 How did it go, group? It goes up as (6)
  - 32 How was Mulder, say, (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Line in top showing status of X-Files (4)
  - 2 Fellow officer of FBI on 1 case demanded order (5)
  - 3 Site of Scully's education (6)
  - 4 Cooperator state: Scully, initially, has to enter (5)
  - 6 Source of Scully's problem with (6)
  - 7 A prospect, possibly, of establishment for educational travel (9)
  - 8 Agent Mulder's married dating mate, if Miss Gurnea (4)
  - 9 Strange man seen, opposing Mulder in (6)
  - 14 Name attached to a scene of crime — EV, for example (5)
  - 15 He would expect to be a (6)
  - 17 Automobiles being investigated in organized activities (9)
  - 18 He also seen in X-Files, name on (6)
  - 20 Group of Duchovny's fully grown (3,5)
  - 23 Get inside the party — right name (6)
  - 26 An acronym as short as (6)
  - 28 He's Mulder's cover out of (6)
  - 29 Exposed Mulder by Mulder in which one's best buddy (6)
  - 30 S44 never being shown in collage (4)











هكذا من زيجتي

David Bowker took full advantage of the belated heatwave to perform this week's challenge: to go without clothes

By the time you read this article, I shall be wearing clothes. Unless you are reading while I'm in the bath, in which case you'll have ruined my opening sentence. I spent last week naked. Not naked apart from socks or a firman's helmet, I mean so bare that Boots refused to develop the photographs.

Not content with being naked, I endeavoured to be naked and unashamed. For an Englishman this was no easy task. From birth, Englishmen are taught that they look silly in their underpants and even sillier with them off. To rid myself of this irksome complex, I spent most of Saturday in front of the mirror, striking heroic poses. I quickly reached the conclusion that I looked stupid from every angle. Particularly upside down.

I shared my misgiving with my wife, who said that I should have no scruples about bearing all. "No," you think I look daft? I asked her. "No," she reassured me. "You look like Michelangelo's statue of David."

I was pleased by this. Then I remembered that David had no scruples either.

The simple bare necessities

Or, at least, none worth mentioning. By Wednesday, I no longer associated "nude" with "rude" and only remembered my lack of clothes when I tried to put something in my pocket. It was particularly difficult to accept that I could be arrested for appearing in my natural state. I drove to Tesco naked. To avoid frightening the other shoppers, I waited in the car while my wife bought the groceries. Yet if the police had found me, I might still have been charged with indecency. Or could it have been argued that I was wearing a car?

On Tuesday the sun started shining. British summer had officially begun and wasn't due to end until Friday evening. I went into the back garden and danced naked to a Disney tape with my two-year-old son. Feeling the heat of the sun on my body was a luxurious experience, although I did wish that certain parts of

me weren't so mobile. But, as I mentioned last week, the only thing that stops me enjoying life is other people ruining it for me. After about five minutes we had a complaint from some neighbours. The complainers were the Phillys, a retired couple whose land backs on to ours. Our gardens are separated by a tall, thick hedge. Previously, they have complained about the smell of our barbecues and the noise our son makes when he's playing in his sandpit so it was no surprise that they objected to naked dancing. Mr Philly, pressing his face to the hedge, said: "If you don't stop what

you're doing, I'll call the police." I said: "Stop what?" "You know full well what I mean." I said: "No I don't. Do you want me to turn the music down?" "No," said Mr Philly. "I want you to show some respect for other people's feelings." Eventually I made him admit that he'd seen us "cavorting". I reminded him that he had witnessed our cavorting because he had been spying on us. Getting angry, Mr Philly said: "My wife's just had a nervous breakdown and you're about to give her another one." I said: "Well, tell her to stop peeping through the hedge." Finally, not wishing to cause a feud for

the sake of a newspaper article, I went inside. But the next day, we travelled to a quiet lake with another family and had a glorious picnic in the nude. The children and their mothers splashed in the shallows, happy and innocent. Their fathers, typically, were not so innocent. Rob, the other dad, suggested that we could live in the wilds forever and start our own tribe. "We could share everything," he enthused, "including our wives." In keeping with tribal tradition, I pointed out that his wife was ugly and if he touched mine, I'd club him to death.

That night, there was a splendid full moon. As a finale to my most enjoyable challenge so far, I stayed awake until the early hours and went for a nude cycle ride around the village. I had no lights on my bike. But I didn't need them. The cheeks of my bottom made a first-rate pair of reflectors.



SEVEN LONG DAYS



WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

**Ballroom dancing.** At the Burton Manor College, South Wirral, Cheshire (0151-336 5172). Price £98. Rock climbing for women. At the Castle Head Field Centre, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria (015395 34300). Price £120 residential, £96 non-residential.

**Pony trekking in the Black Mountains.** Four-wheel off-road driving at Hay on Wye; An Elgar weekend in Malvern; Outdoor activities. Archery, abseiling, botany, sailing, white-water rafting, walking and climbing. All with Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Prices from £22 per day.

**Writing your life story; Chinese brush painting.** At Kruston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Wellingborough, Northants (01933 312104). Price per course £92.

**Tarot reading.** At the Mountain Hall Centre, Queensbury, West Yorkshire (01274 816258). Course price £60. Accommodation from £25 per night, half board.

**An introduction to water plants.** At the Scottish Field Studies Kin-drogan Field Centre, Blairgowrie, Perthshire (01250 881286). Price £136 inclusive.

**Drawing and painting.** At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). £180 inclusive.

**Improve your watercolours; Walking the Constable Country.** At the Flatford Mill Field Study Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester,

Essex (01206 298283). Price per course £140 residential, £110 non-residential.

**The Island of Steepholm; The Am-ish people and their quilts.** At the Urchfont Manor College, Devizes, Wilt (01380 840495). Price per course £101 inclusive.

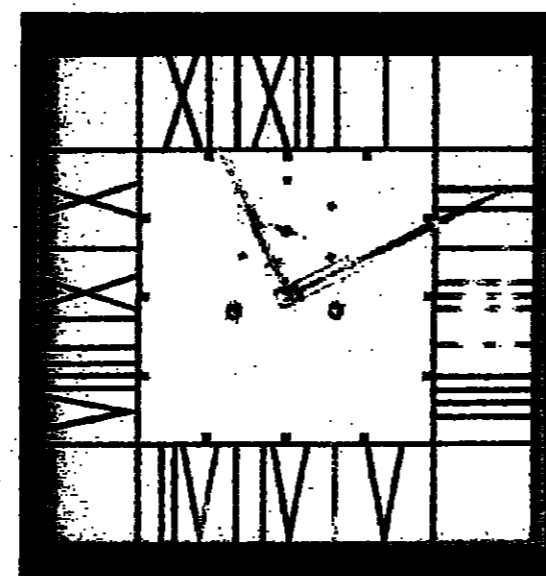
**Weekend pony trekking in the Black Mountains of Gwent.** With Grange Trekking, of Capel-y-Fyn, Abergavenny (01873 890215). Suitable for beginners and experienced riders. Age from five-plus. Week-end price £120 inclusive.

**Explore the Border Abbeys by bike.** From the Dryburgh Abbey Hotel, St Boswells near Kelso (01835 822261). Weekend breaks from £159. Cycle hire available.

**Wildlife sound recording; Basic botany for gardeners.** At the Preston Mount Field Centre, Shrewsbury, Salop (01743 850380). Price for wildlife recording £105 residential, £75 non-residential. Garden-ers' botany (three days) from £135 residential, £100 non-residential.

**Early Christian art and architecture; Playing Bach on the organ; Advanced botanical illustration.** At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £120 per course.

**Long-weekend sailing courses on cabin-cruising yachts.** With the Norfolk Broads School of Sailing, Wroxham, Norfolk (01603 783096).



Learn about Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his designs on a weekend course in September



Price per head £200 (minimum two people) for four days. Calligraphy; Painting, including Impressionism. At the Kruston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Wellingborough, Northants (01933 312104). Price per course £92.

**Diving the Skomer marine reserve and the Pembrokeshire Islands.** From the Field Studies Council Centre, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire (01646 636205). Price £205 residential, £160 non-residential. Weekend windsurfing or sailing. At the Rockley Point Sailing

Centre, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset (01202 677272). Price £125 for two days' sailing and one night's full-board accommodation.

**"Hairy Hog" backpacking week-ends in Wales.** Exploring the Snowdonia National Park, with local guides; horse riding, mountain biking or hiking options available. Price £99, including guides and bed and breakfast accommodation. Full details from Cardiff Backpackers (01222 666900). How to sell what you write. A long weekend for freelance writers with

Hugh Graham, at the Earnley Con-course, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Price residential £218, non-residential £144.

**Rural rambles, discovering green lanes and coastal paths in and around Slayton Ley.** From the Slayton Ley Field Centre, Slayton, Kingsbridge, Devon (01584 580466). Price (four days) residential £160, non-residential £120.

**Active bank holiday weekends.** With Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Gorge adventures, abseiling, white-water rafting,

laser clay-pigeon shooting in Snowdonia £200; activity weekend for singles, climbing and kayaking on the Welsh Border, three nights with full-board accommodation £260; walking weekend in Builth, Wales, £180; Sailing or windsurfing bank holiday weekend £340.

**SEPTEMBER 4-8**

**Domice; In search of Brother Cad-fael's landscape; Water and wet-lands; Sketching and painting tech-niques for landscape.** At the Preston Montford Field Study Centre, Shrewsbury, Salop (01743 850380). Price per course residential £105, non-residential £75.

**Essential electric guitar; An intro-duction to chamber music; The malt whiskies of Scotland.** At the Kruston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Wellingborough, North-ants (01933 312104). Price per course from £92.

**English medieval churches.** At Ludlow, with the University of Bir-mingham (0121-414 5605). Price £129 inclusive.

**Family weekend activities.** At Fox-halls Country Club, Ottershaw, Surrey (01932 872050). Tennis les-sons, golf, swimming, gym. Price £150 with B&B included.

**Railway heritage; Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the ambivalent Mod-ernist; Autumn birds; East Anglia in the Second Civil War.** At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price per

course £120 inclusive of accommo-dation and tuition.

**Making teddy Bears; Classic English movies.** At the Urchfont Manor College, Devizes, Wilt (01380 840495). Price from £99 to £104.

**Portrait painting and drawing; Decorative chainmaking and link-ing systems.** At West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Price per course £150.

**Paragliding; Pottery; Pony trek-king.** Along the Welsh Marches with Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). From £140.

**Drawing for the terrified (part 2); Hardanger embroidery.** At the Alston Hall Residential College, Longridge, Preston, Lancs (01772 784661). Price per course £100 residential, £75 non-residential.

**Aspects of Georgian art and design.** At Belstead House Educa-tion and Conference Centre, Ips-wich, Suffolk (01473 686321). Price £98 residential, £78 non-residential.

**Botanical painting.** At the Burton Manor College, Cheshire (0151-336 5172). Price £98 inclusive.

**Cycling and walking breaks in Bath.** Cycle hire, route and tour packs, historical information in-cluded. Weekend rates from £148 in-clusive, from Compass Holidays of Cheltenham (01242 250642).

**Canoeing in the Lake District.** From the Castle Head Field Centre, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria (015395 34300). Price from £96.

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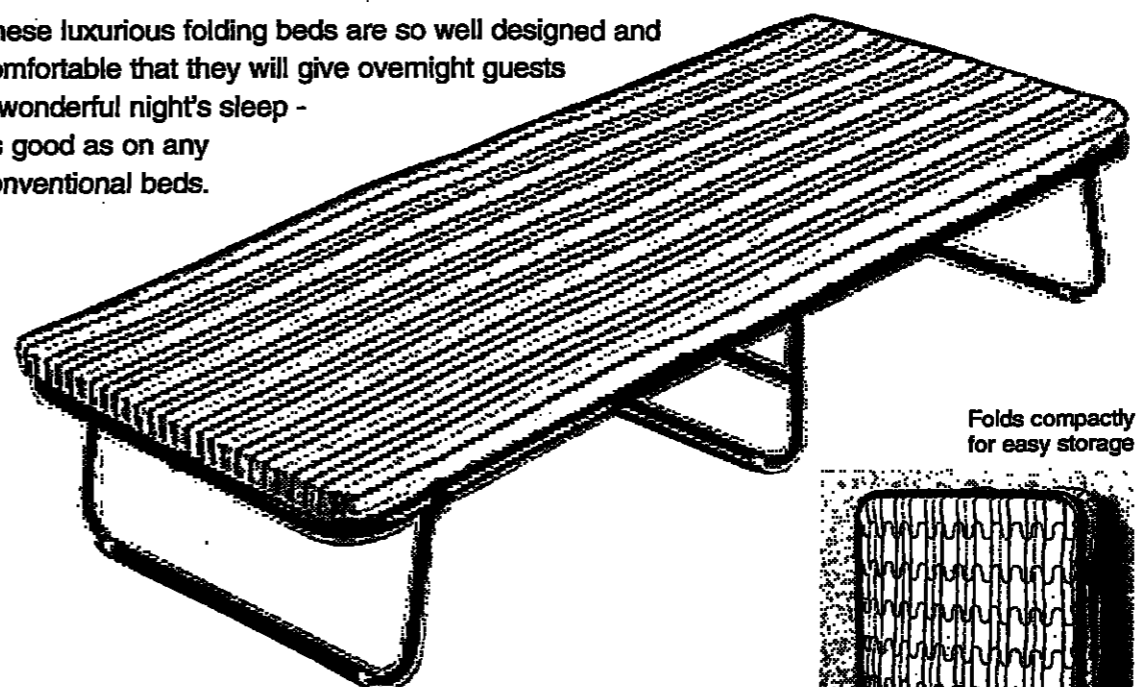
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Touring Umbria a year after the quake

Italy · 24

# THE TIMES TRAVEL

In at the deep end for the wet season

Zambia · 33



## Novel experience on enchanted isle

Brian MacArthur takes a tour of Cephalonia, setting for one of the decade's most touching stories

When Louis de Bernières' former girlfriend rebelled at yet another summer holiday in France in 1992, they went instead to the largest of the Ionian islands, Cephalonia — and thereby set in train the biggest success story of British publishing in the 1990s.

Cephalonia was a good swap. Anybody who tours the island, where the ships of Odysseus were built, will soon be seduced by its bewitching charm — its small, golden beaches, the deep blue sea, the deep green pine forests clinging to spectacular mountains.

De Bernières was not only bewitched. His curiosity was also aroused by the most dramatic event in the island's recent history. Still, 45 years later, the topic most frequently raised in any conversation with Cephalonians is the great earthquake of 1953 that devastated most of the island and flattened the capital, Argostoli.

On a journey to Lixouri from Argostoli on his motorbike, he saw the dramatic effect of the earthquake when he stopped at Farsa and walked around the ruins of the deserted village on the hill above the road. It was here that the idea for his fourth novel was conceived. That novel was *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* — and the rest is publishing history. Now in its fifth year of publication, *Captain Corelli* is this week Number 5 in *The Times* Bestseller List.

It has been a remarkable triumph for a novel which went unnoticed by the judges of the Booker Prize but which has flourished by the most powerful of all marketing weapons, word of mouth, which has helped to sell more than 600,000 copies. There have been 32 reprints, it has been translated into 17 languages (including Greek), and it is now the subject of an hour-long *Bookmark* on BBC2 next Saturday.

The happy result for Cephalonia is that many holiday-makers are going to the island because they have been so enchanted by *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*. It is a magnificent novel which moves the reader to tears as well as laughter, peopled by memorable characters — particularly Iannis, the widowed Greek doctor, his daughter Pelagia: Captain Corelli himself, the Italian commander for whom music is

more important than war; Carlo, the lieutenant who faces the German bullets to save Corelli's life; and the indomitable Drosoula, who becomes Pelagia's surrogate mother (and who is the main subject of the next novel). It reaches a horrific climax in the barbaric massacre of Italian soldiers by the Germans after their surrender in 1943, although the story continues into the present day.

De Bernières describes his novel in the *Bookmark* film as a story about what happens to ordinary people when megalomaniacs get busy. It is also, as Sir Richard Eyre, the former artistic director of the National Theatre, argues, a novel about the redeeming power of love: the good people eventually find happiness and the bad are punished.

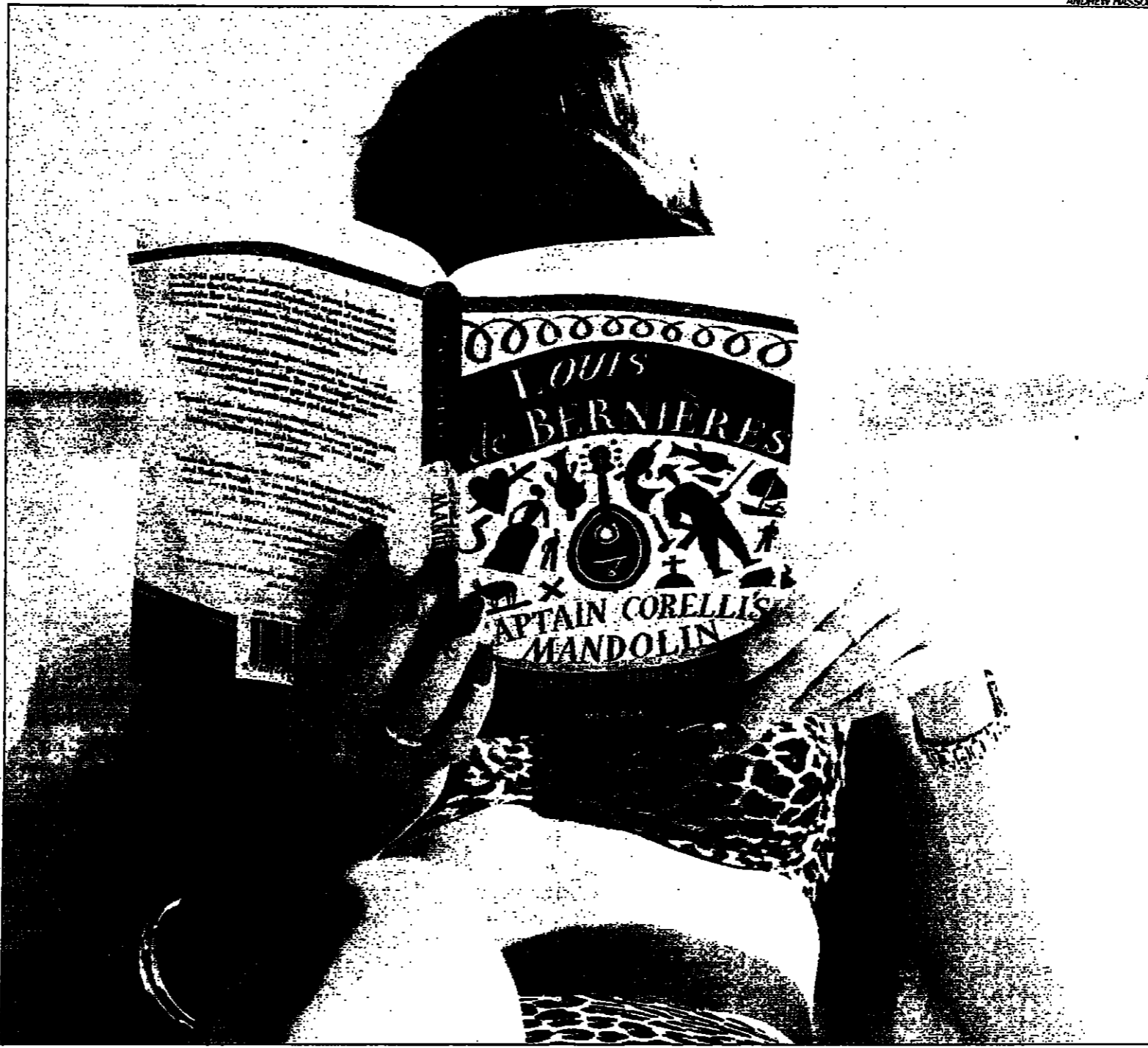
Another result of *Captain Corelli* is that the island is peopled by ghosts and ghostly memories. The megalomaniacs departed long ago, but sit

in any of the cafés around Argostoli's Metaxa Square, and it is hard not to recall that it was here that the Italians and then the Nazis strutted in 1943. The ghosts of Iannis and Pelagia stalk the hilltop villages where Britons and Germans now make their homes alongside Cephalonians. Was this the model for Drosoula's Tavern, we wonder, as we sip a café frappé in one of the cafés around Fiskardo harbour? We know that Corelli bade farewell to Pelagia on a beach on Cape Liala beyond the village of Sparta as he escaped to Italy.

The good news is that Cephalonia has not exploited the novel. There is no coach tour offering the Captain Corelli Experience. Search for a Corelli Café, Pelagia's Pantry or Drosoula Tavern, or even a copy of the book if you didn't get one at Gatwick, and you will search in vain.

Nor, after the earthquake, does the island of 1943 any longer exist. The architecture is no longer Venetian; Vespas are used instead of donkeys and as they stroll round Fiskardo, the Italians and Greeks are talking into mobile phones. Cephalonia has rebuilt itself and moved on, though the living is hard and too many of the young depart for the bright lights of Athens.

"There is no indigenous industry that keeps families together, there is not enough arable land, there is an insufficiency of fish in the ocean," Iannis



Louis de Bernières' epic, bestselling novel describes the delights of Cephalonia more graphically and eloquently than any guidebook ever could

says. "Our men go abroad and return here to die and so we are an island of children, spinners, priests and the very old." So the main industry of the island is tourism, and the only invasion now is of Italian, British and German tourists.

Another reason to read *Captain Corelli* is that de Bernières describes Cephalonia in prose so luminous that it is beyond the reach of any guidebook. He captures perfectly, for example, the quality of the light, as described by Iannis: "The dark green of the pines is unfathomably and retreatingly deep, the ocean viewed from the top of a cliff is placid in its presentation of azure and turquoise, emerald, viridian and lapis lazuli... Even the seawater of Cephalonia is easier to see through than the air of any other place, a man may float in the water watching the distant sea bed and clearly see lugubrious rays that for some reason are always accompanied by diminutive flashlight."

It really is like that — and it really was like this as the Germans destroyed the evidence of their massacre by converting flesh to smoke. "They ran truckload after truckload of fuel. Soldiers hacked down olive a thousand years old and stacked them about heaps of lolling corpses so high that it became impossible to stack them higher..."

Some of the horror of that massacre, when up to 20,000 Italians were slaughtered, can still be recaptured at the simple, well-tended Italian war memorial a short drive from Argostoli, where a large white cross is surrounded by plaques in Greek and Italian testifying to the battles of September 15 to September 26 1943. Italy still remembers, it proclaims.

The memorial attracts few visitors and our taxi driver had to ask the way. Yet it has the same effect as the cemeteries to the fallen in France. Where once the guns sounded, there is now a sense of tranquillity on this quiet deserted hillside, as well as the valleys below where the Italians were buried or burned.

Yet, as Carlo says, Cephalonia is an island where it is physically impossible to be morose and where vicious emotions cannot exist.

Memories do, however, live on. On de Bernières' recommendation, I went to the Café Tselenti in Fiskardo and sought out the owner, Minas, who shares de Bernières' love of the guitar. Minas had an eerie experience only last summer, when an elderly Italian arrived at the café and asked to be shown the upstairs rooms.

Asked why, he explained that he had been Mussolini's commander in Fiskardo during the war. There now hangs on the wall at the back of the café a photograph of Fiskardo in 1941 with an Italian gunboat in the harbour where the Sun-sall flotillas now dock, before heading for the harbourside Captain's Cabin.

At last, I thought, somebody had exploited Corelli — but this captain was named for the flotilla sailors, not an Italian who played the mandolin.

'Where once the guns sounded, there is now a sense of tranquillity'

**CEPHALONIA FACT FILE**

**CEPHALONIA**  
Peloponnese

Ionian Sea  
5 miles

- Brian MacArthur travelled with Greek Islands Club.
- Getting there: Greek Islands Club (0181-232 9780) has a fortnight's self-catering in Avidhos in Cephalonia from £575 per person departing on September 27, based on four sharing. Car hire, flights from Gatwick, transfers and a welcome pack of food included.
- Eating out: A meal for two with wine at a restaurant is about £20.
- Reading: *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* by Louis de Bernières (Minerva, £6.99); *The Greek Islands* (Rough Guide, £10.99); *Baedeker's Greek Islands* (AA, £7.99); *Essential Greek Islands* (AA, £14.99); and for those interested in birdlife, *The Birds of Greece*, by George Handrinos and T Akriotis (A&C Black, £25).
- Further information: National Tourist Office of Greece (0171-734 5997).

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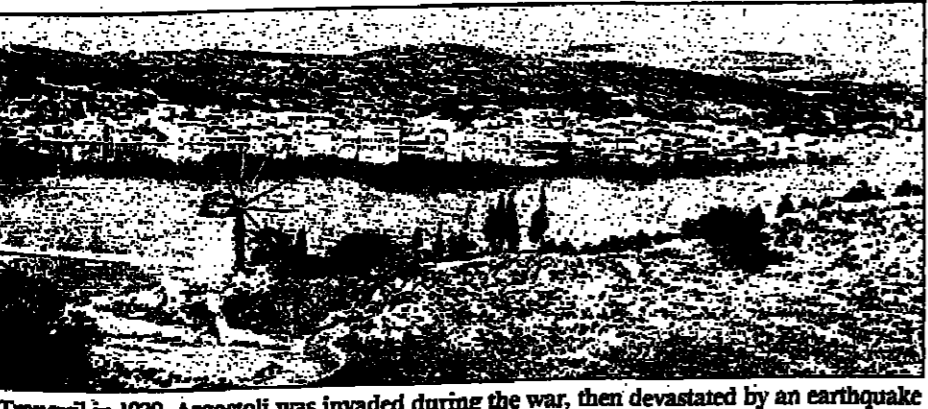
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Café Tselenti in Fiskardo is a favourite haunt of the author, de Bernières, right



Tranquil in 1920, Argostoli was invaded during the war, then devastated by an earthquake

هكذا من زيارته



# Inspired and intoxicating

Michael Dynes eschews trendy Tuscany for Umbria, a year on from the earthquakes that struck Assisi



The Basilica of St Francis, immersed in a cloud of dust and rubble during the earthquake

**E**arthquakes and tourism, like oil and water, generally don't mix. During the 11 months since a series of tremors shook the tranquillity of the Umbrian countryside, the number of visitors to this breathtaking landscape has slumped by a quarter, to just over three million.

Umbrian tourism officials believe that potential visitors have been put off Umbria by TV pictures beamed round the world of the upper church of the Basilica of St Francis and its frescoes lying in rubble. What many people do not realise is that the lower church, containing some of the best Giotto, survived and is open to the public. The region bulges with fantastic architecture and churches unaffected by the quakes which started last September. The Blairs, who have been holidaying in rival Tuscany this month, don't know what they have been missing in Umbria.

My wife Nicol — who as an Italian expert on Renaissance art and architecture is the region's number one fan — booked one of Umbria's many converted farmhouses. Ours, called Ariete, was in the village of Migliano, near Marsciano, north of Todi.

A miserable wreck a few years ago, Ariete has since been refurbished by its English owner. The large farmhouse has been split into four units. Ours was simple with dark wooden rustic furniture and white-washed walls, all mod cons, an outdoor swimming pool, and a sheltered external dining area.

From here it was possible to drive comfortably to any part of the region in a day, although it would take months, even years, to explore everything Umbria has to offer. Each morning we drove off early and did some sightseeing before the sun became too intense at lunchtime. We would find a restaurant to shelter in until mid-afternoon, and then begin exploring again.

Few visitors have ever arrived in this landlocked province of the Italian peninsula without becoming intoxicated with its beauty or left without having experienced the mystical quality which has drawn writers and artists here for hundreds of years.



Fragments of a fresco by Giotto depicting San Rufino are assembled by experts outside the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi. The saint's shattered visage is a painful reminder of the huge task ahead

Long-renowned for the number and fame of its saints (St Francis and St Benedict are merely two among hundreds), chroniclers down the ages have been convinced that the region must have been blessed by the hand of God. Something in the landscape must have created its great saints, great art, and great cathedrals. Hence, the province's appellations, Umbria Sancta, or the Galilee of Italy.

Although overshadowed by its more popular neighbour, Umbria is in many respects the greater treasure, and is cheaper. Part of the allure is the beauty of an unspoilt countryside at peace. It has not always been so. The ancient Etruscans, Romans, Byzantines, Goths, Moors, Lombards, Magyars, Franks, and Spaniards have laid claim, and laid waste, to this land.

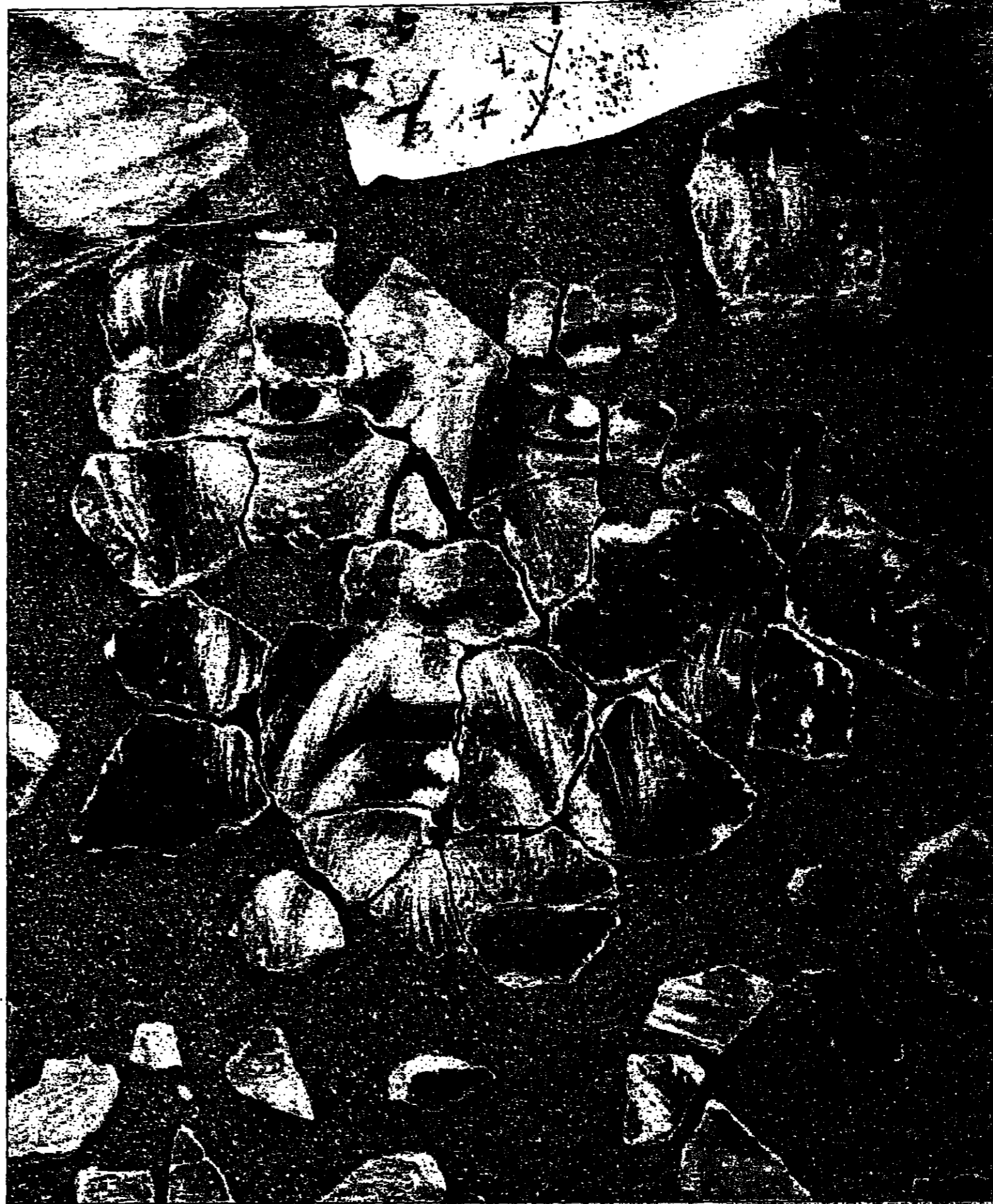
Centuries of rivalry between the imperial aspirations of the Roman Papacy to the south, and the pretensions of the Holy Roman Empire to the north, have left deep scars and generated wonders. Life must

have been grim for the peasantry, caught between the exacting demands of the Church on the one hand, and the rampages of marauding troops on the other. Yet this was also the period when the great city states flourished.

Successive waves of invaders have left their mark. It is impossible to go anywhere in Umbria without stumbling upon some treasure bridging past and present. But it is the architectural and artistic achievements of the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance, scattered around every town and village, which continue to paralyse the visitor with astonishment and awe.

**A**long with its *duomos* and churches, monasteries and civic squares, Umbria's medieval landscape has been preserved intact despite the earthquakes. Sitting among the olive groves as the sun sets, casting a faint blue light over the surrounding hills, it is not hard to see why the region was one of the favoured retreats of wealthy Roman patricians seeking the idyllic life-style depicted by Virgil and Horace.

The High Renaissance marked the onset of Umbria's secular decline. By the 16th century, it had lost its independence, and was overshadowed by Rome. But Umbrians had the foresight and good fortune to preserve most of the buildings of the period in pristine condition. They are, arguably, some of the finest in all of



Central Italy. Moreover, Umbria's towns are awash with the art of the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance, and much of it remains in the same buildings for which it was originally commissioned.

You can still visit areas of the Basilica of Assisi, despite

last year's disaster. But Antonio Paolucci, the former minister of culture who now heads the committee for the restoration of the Basilica, says it is "most unlikely" that the whole basilica will be reopened for the millennium as originally planned. "We have concentrated resources on shoring up the fabric of the building to make it safe," he said.

The lower church, including the underground tomb of St Francis, has been reopened to visitors. But Mr Paolucci says the job of piecing back together the thousands of fragments of frescoes by Giotto and Cimabue which crashed from the vaulted ceiling of the upper church last September has only just begun.

He said restorers had spent the past 11 months painstakingly

sorting through the fragments, and it was still not clear how much of the priceless frescoes could be saved — "perhaps between 10 per cent and a third," he said. "The process could take up to ten years to complete."

**S**t Francis in kitsch snowflakes shakers, and other manifestations of crass commercialism on sale around the basilica, do grate somewhat. Yet it is still possible to let your mind wander and imagine what it must have been like for pilgrims in the Middle Ages who first saw Assisi, its delicate pink and white stone buildings, its imposing fortress, and its exquisite Basilica — it must have been little short of a foretaste of paradise.

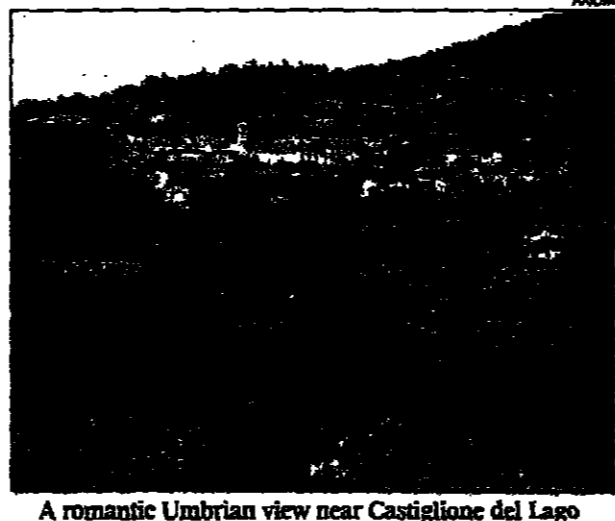
From the first-century remains of the Roman theatre at Gubbio, which held 16,000 spectators, to the balcony of the Carducci Gardens in Perugia, which offers one of the most famous views in Italy overlooking the spot where the Tiber Valley meets the Vale of Umbria, the region never loses its power to mesmerise and astound the visitor.

Yet some of Umbria's greatest architectural treasures are hidden away in little towns which you might be tempted to by-pass. Situated on a high hill overlooking the Tiber Valley is the tiny city of Todi, which appears out of the mist, hugging the hostile rock-face amid beautiful countryside. Todi's Piazza del Popolo contains no less than three 13th-century civic buildings,

and an imposing Duomo, while the Santa Maria della Consolazione outside the city walls is one of the finest Renaissance churches in Umbria.

Perhaps the most magnificent of all the region's *duomos* is the Duomo of Orvieto, begun in the 13th century. It is regarded as one of the greatest of all European cathedrals. Nothing can prepare you for that first glimpse of its brilliantly coloured and ornate facade.

It is impossible to tire of Umbria. The only real danger is that having sampled its pleasures, you might be tempted never to return home. But if you feel like a change of pace from the peace and serenity of the countryside, the splendour and bustle of Rome is a mere two-and-a-half hours' drive away.



A romantic Umbrian view near Castiglione del Lago

**OUT AND ABOUT IN UMBRIA**

- Michael Dynes travelled with Tuscany Now (0171-272 5469).
- Getting there: He flew with Italian independent airline AirOne (0171-424 7320) from Stansted to Milan and drove three hours to reach Migliano in Umbria. Return flights from £93. Alternatively, you can fly to Rome (the drive to Umbria takes two-and-a-half hours). British Airways (0345 22211) has return flights to Rome from £119, departing from Heathrow or Gatwick. Alitalia (0171-602 711) charges from £119 return, also from Heathrow or Gatwick. Debonair (0541 500300), from £117 return from Luton. Go (0845 605 4321), from £100 return from Stansted. You can also hire cars through British Airways reservations number (see above). They offer a Ford Fiesta-sized car to pick up in Rome from £196 per week with Hertz.
- Where to stay: Michael Dynes stayed at Ariete in Migliano, Umbria, offered through Tuscany Now. A week's let ranges from £850 in August to £595 in late September, excluding flights and car. He also stayed at the Hotel Eden in Rome as a guest of Leading Hotels of the World (0800 811223). Rooms start at £287 per night.
- Eating and drinking: The Umbria restaurant in Todi serves great pasta and meat dishes at low prices.
- When to go: spring and autumn are the most comfortable months, when temperatures are mild. April and May are good for orchards and wildflowers. July and August can be hot and dry. September is the time to enjoy the grape harvest.
- Further information: Italian State Tourist Office (0171-408 1254).
- Reading: *Walking and Eating in Tuscany and Umbria* by James Leddon and Via Davis (Penguin, £8.99). *Tuscany, Umbria & the Marche* by Dana Faccaro and Michael Pauls (Corgon, £14.99).

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# Look who's moved in up the road

**Robin Young got to southern France ahead of the Blairs**



An arcade at Mirepoix.

You too can have a French holiday like Tony and Cherie Blair - maybe even better. The Blairs are this weekend arriving in St Martin d'Oydes in the French department of Ariège, revisiting the château between Toulouse and the Pyrénées where last year they enjoyed the hospitality of David Keene, a partner in Cherie's law firm.

But my wife Lillian and I pre-empted their arrival with a stay at the neighbouring Château de Soules, less than ten miles from the Blairs' second holiday home.

Compared with the tourist-thronged streets of San Gimignano in Tuscany, where the Blairs have been spending the past two weeks, Ariège is something of rural backwater, one of the most thinly populated areas of France and one of the least touristy.

Even so, it is only a short drive to the city of Toulouse and nearby Muret, where the Carrefour and Leclerc hypermarkets are among the largest in France.

Our château at Soules, owned by Denise and Arnold Brun, who formerly lived at Farnham in Surrey, stands back from the D919 backroad from Toulouse to Foix up a long tree-lined avenue and behind security gates in 25 acres of its own woodland.

The Keene-Blair château, by contrast, is a brick-built mini-fortress guarding the entrance to the village it has always protected. St Martin consists of a tight circle of some 30 houses surrounding a fortified church with turreted bell tower. The houses form an elliptical stockade, like settlers' wagons drawn up against an Indian attack. All the fronts face inwards, while at the rear, outside the protective circle, washing lines and little gardens are exposed.

The château is just across the road from a bar and grill and the Royal Samana discotheque, among the few additions that have been made to the tiny village outside its original "bastide" formation.

Inside the circle on a sunny Sunday evening, the loudest noises are the ticking of the church clock, the purring of pigeons in the belly and the jolly chatter of housemartins skimming in and out of their nests.

Behind the château the



Strictly off the beaten track: Foix in Ariège, with its compact châteaux nesting beneath a triple-towered castle straight out of a fairytale, was once home to the wealthiest counts in France

brownish hillside, like parched downland, is quietly grazed by pretty beige Limousin cattle that are a speciality in the region, while above a circling buzzard keeps aerial observation.

The byroads are almost free of traffic, and beside the road from St Martin to our own base at Soules, we have seen a roadside ditch filled with bulrushes, teasels and purple loosestrife. A charm of goldfinches flutters across the road ahead of us and another buzzard sails overhead to take up position on a telegraph pole.

We have our own buzzards at Soules, plus a tawny owl in one of the château towers, and green woodpeckers yaffle exuberantly from the woods. Bats issue from the eaves at dusk to find hawk moths and other flying insects, illuminated by the floodlights under the cypress and pine trees.

Soules means the sun in Occitan, the language of Languedoc, of which Ariège forms a part. The château's micro-climate certainly deserves the name. Temperatures were in the region of 38C during our stay, but judicious use of shutters against the heat kept our rooms comfortably temperate. Denise Brun is not expecting rain until November. For those who want it, there is a swimming pool hidden from view in the former orchard behind the château.

Locals come uninvited to share the Bruns' crop of Ceps de Bordeaux, wild boletus mushrooms that flourish in the woods. Beside the drive, one tree bears enough mistle-

Robin Young travelled with The Gascony Secret (01284 827253). The Château de Soules has rooms for two with breakfast from £266 a week or half-board (including dinner and wine) for £375 a week; the self-catering apartment costs £300 and sleeps up to six.

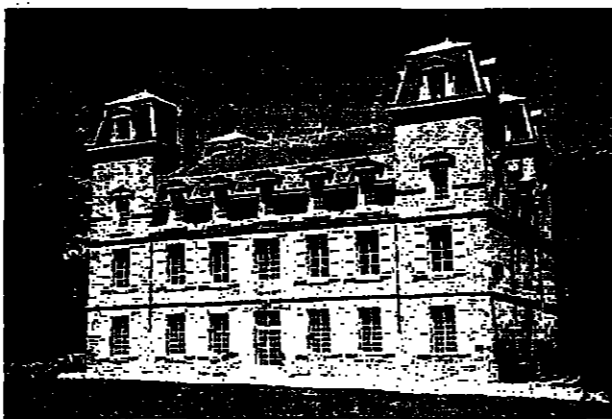
The Youngs flew with Ryanair (0541 505569) from Stansted to Carrasonne (current fares from £162 plus £5.70 tax), but it is also possible to go via Toulouse, which is served by British Airways (0345 22211) at £162 from Gatwick, or Air France (0181-742 6600) for £162 from Heathrow.

## SOULES FACT FILE

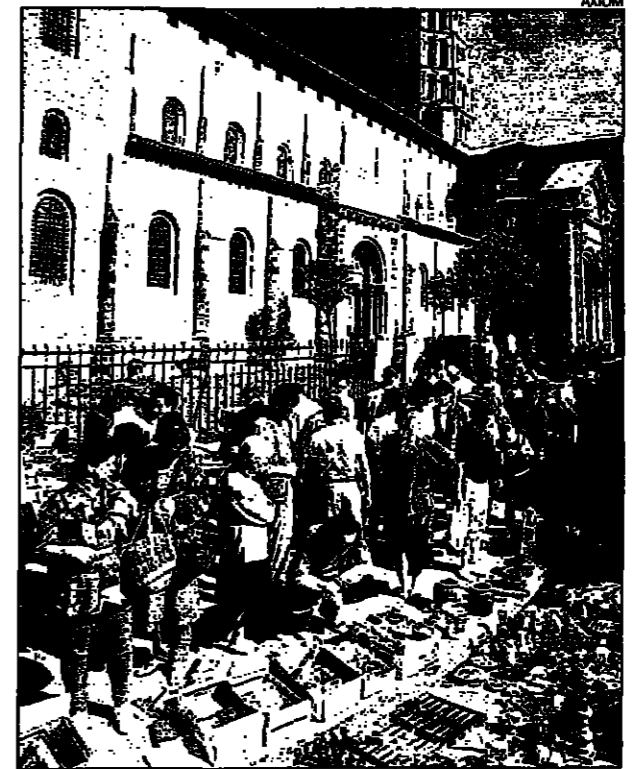
Car hire: With daytime temperatures sometimes reaching 40C, air-conditioning is essential in a hire car. We have heard reports of at least four motorists who had been promised air-conditioned C-category cars by Hertz when they booked in advance from the UK, only to find no such cars available when they arrived. However, Hertz says company policy is to guarantee that when the type of car for which you've

pre-paid is unavailable, you will be upgraded. Hertz (0990 996699) assures us it has C-category cars with air-conditioning which can be picked up in Toulouse for £179 a week.

Further information from the French Tourist Board on 0891 244123 (premium rate). Useful guidebooks include Michael Paul's *Southwest France: Gascony and the Pyrénées* (Corgon, 12.99); the region is also covered by a Michelin Green Guide: *Pyrénées Languedoc Tarn Gorges* (Michelin, £8.99).



Holiday homes: the Youngs' Soules château, left, and the home in St-Martin d'Oydes where the Blair family is staying



Toulouse, with its busy market, is an easy day-trip

to supply several market stalls at Christmas. The Bruns, who formerly dealt in antique clocks, ran a delicatessen, a smoke house and a trout and snail farm, now let four apartments in their château and self-catering gîte in the dowry house behind.

Denise, who originally trained as a florist, supplies gargantuan, homely dinners on the terrace at night and sumptuous breakfasts in the morning. It is a degree of sophistication unusual in Ariège, where tourist facilities are for the most part still pretty basic.

In the thick French Chamberland guide to restaurants by department, the entries for Ariège fill less than two pages, by far the most meagre score for any department of France. In Foix, the departmental capital, our lunchtime restaurant claimed to be the only three-star restaurant in Ariège, but was still very ordinary.

Foix, once home to the counts who were the richest and most powerful supporters of the early Kings of France, is dominated by its triple-towered castle, a dramatic silhouette reminiscent of Marcel Carné's classic film *Les Visiteurs du Soir*. One tower is just the sort of fairytale structure from which one imagines Rapunzel let down her hair.

The town is heavily trafficked though, because it is the sole gateway to Andorra, a



ends of the Ariège, "two hours of emotion, joy and humour evoked by 200 actors, costumes, riders and animals", or attend a chivalric tournament and medieval market in Foix.

Or they may prefer to potter about the countryside making chance discoveries, such as the Gothic churches at Villeneuve or Ste Suzanne, the wide-open views from the hilltop village of Carla Bayle, or the medieval arched squares in Mirepoix.

Our own discoveries included a 12th-century underground church at Vals entered through a cleft in the rock above the village, and capped with a later structure which provided a three-storey church brightened with Byzantine frescoes.

The area is good for walking, cycling or horseriding, and motorists can pass right through one of the caverns that perforate the Ariège's limestone hillsides at Mas d'Azil. There is a guided visit of prehistoric paintings in the higher galleries of the caverns above the road.

The little bearded horses, the Mérens, which feature in some of the region's cave paintings, are still bred in the area and were until recently used for agricultural work.

At Labouiche, where there is a cave, visitors can glide on boats on a subterranean river. Local museums include collections devoted to the textile industry of the Pays d'Olmes, archaeology, and the history of the pig.

Fellow guests at Soules made day-trip sorties to Lourdes, to Toulouse for the Sunday flea market, to the high Pyrenees in search of bearded vultures, and to Andorra for duty-free goods.

But some found their happiest days were spent about the house and at the poolside. Said one group to the hospitable Denise, as they hugged on parting: "You have made us feel more like friends than paying guests."

I understand that is how the Blairs like it, too.

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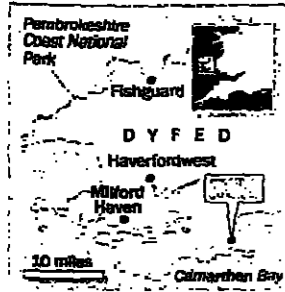
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# Wales's bucket and spade brigade

With beaches and heritage, Tenby is just the ticket for families, says Sophie Campbell



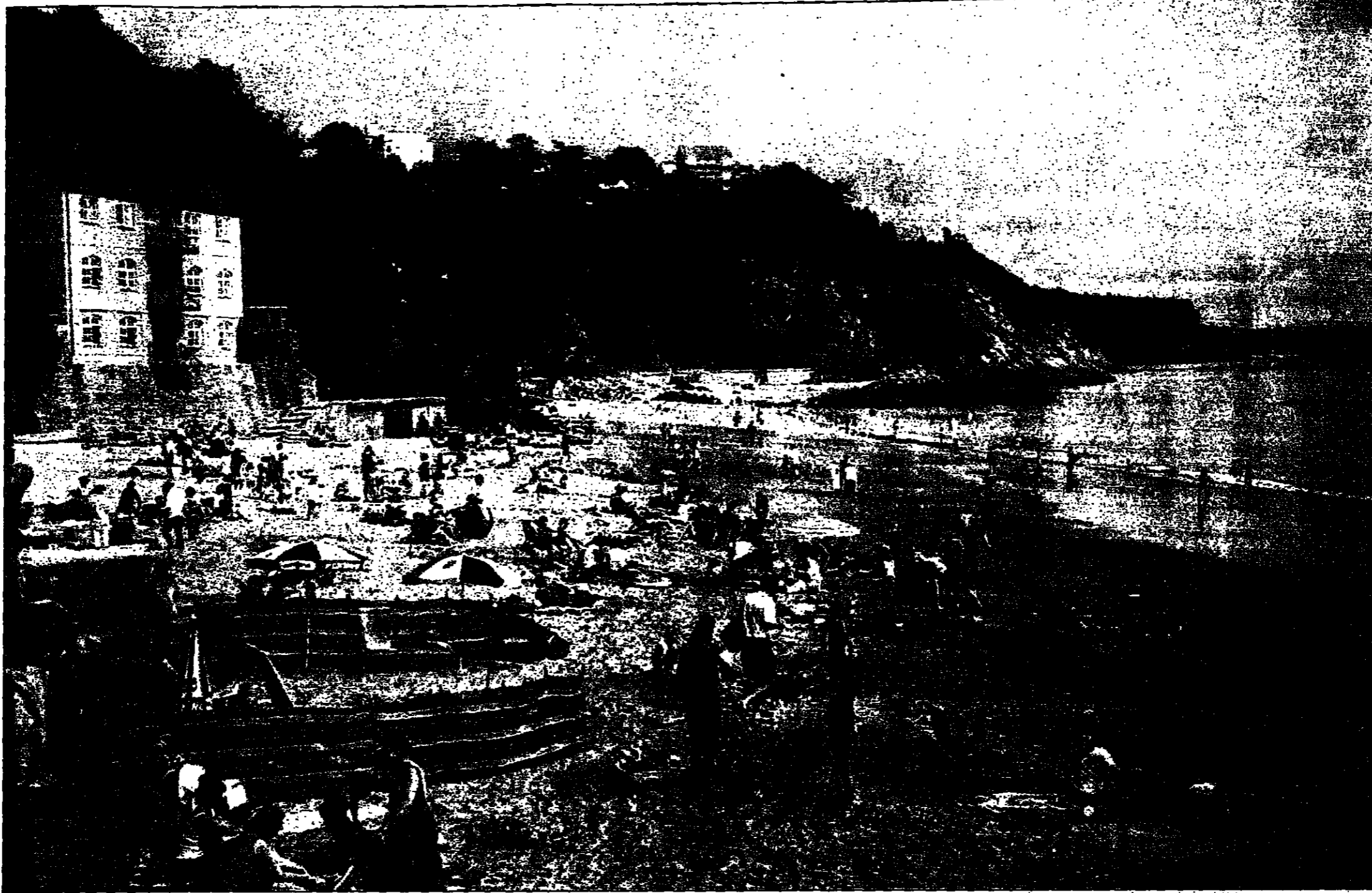
Prince Albert has the best view in Tenby. He stands on his promontory of Castle Hill — usually with a seagull on his head — facing the Welsh town with its ancient fortifications and sweeps of Georgian and Victorian houses.

To his left are St Catherine's Island and the broad sands that disappear around the cliffs to become South Beach. To his right is North Beach — smaller, but a Blue Flag holder — with its cliff-top terrace of houses and landmark Goscar Rock. Straight ahead, in a pretty scoop of a harbour, wheel boats bob about or lie stricken on the mud at the whim of a nine-metre tide.

This summer, the statue has seen some horribly capricious weather. My train arrived on one of the worst July yet recorded, but I awoke the next morning to skies of innocent blue. Outside the Hotel Atlantic — part of a parade built high on the cliffs above South Beach to accommodate Victorian tourists — the first traffic jam of the day was piling up behind a coach tour and elderly visitors were parking themselves on wooden benches with views over the green swells of Caldey Island and a glittering sea.

Conversation centred on the weather: "Nice to see the sun at last". "It was blowing a gale earlier, wasn't it, just like winter." and, "I've been taking my jumper on and off, on and on." All very British seaside.

Indeed, the sounds floating up from the beach were so utterly British that even with your eyes shut you could be



Holidaymakers on Tenby's North Beach, where "the overriding leitmotif is still the great British windbreaker: stolid, stripy, curving protectively around each mini-empire on the sand"

nowhere else. Screams of agony on first contact with the sea. The thwack of wooden mallet on tent pole. The gentle pop of beach balls being kicked, the clack of deckchairs, the easy murmur of conversation interrupted every so often with howls of childish rage and "Stop it! NOW!" And despite all the foreign influences creeping on to the beach — Brazilian beachwear, American baseball hats, French bou-

les — the overriding leitmotif is still the great British windbreaker: stolid, stripy, curving protectively around each mini-empire on the sand.

Change comes slowly to Tenby, self-styled "Queen of Pembrokeshire" and the country's only seaside resort to be set in a National Park. Partly by luck and partly by judgment (the luck was years of neglect, which left many houses undisturbed; the judgment was

strict planning controls and a decade of hefty grants from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park), its period looks have lasted — so much so that it has just starred as Brighton in the BBC's forthcoming production of *Vanity Fair*.

There are no unsightly permanent funfairs or giant amusement arcades, but there is the swimming pool two years ago, as well as two nightclubs

— the only ones in Pembrokeshire — one is two miles away and one five miles from the town centre. Needless to say, there are large numbers of Tenbyites in their late teens and early twenties who are bored stiff.

Will Lewis, the 22-year-old deckchair attendant on South Beach, said: "If you're old enough to go to the pub, that's what your social life is going to be for the next few years. I'm just back here saving enough money to get out again. But you should talk to someone else — I'm biased."

Local tourism officials dutifully point out that there are things for late-teenagers to do (mainly watersports), but even they admit that this is not Tenby's remit. "Our image is really bucket-and-spade," said one during a hectic morning at the Tourist Information Centre on the cliff above North Beach. "We're absolutely perfect for families." As if to prove this, as she spoke, parents were arriving with their children in tow, encouraged by the jolly weather to book a few days' accommodation at the last minute.

At the nearby Fourcroft Hotel, owned by the Osborne family, Chris Osborne knew this phenomenon only too well. "Ten years ago, by the end of January, high season would have been fully booked. Now they turn up with a carload of children after a day on the beach and get really miffed when we haven't got a room." The Fourcroft was full when we spoke, but it had been a bad year all round for weather. World Cup/strong pound reasons. The same lull can be heard at seaside resorts across Britain but few of those have also had to deal with a disaster on the scale of the *Sea Empress* oil spill, three years ago, which dealt a terrible blow to Pembrokeshire's coastal wildlife and tourism.

These days, the oil has gone, but the scars remain for hoteliers and tour operators. Chris prefers to believe the tragedy forced the town to come out fighting. Castle Beach and the adjoining section of South Beach are applying for Blue Flag status and planning to build a watersports centre (windsurfing, sailing, parasailing) next to the existing beach café.

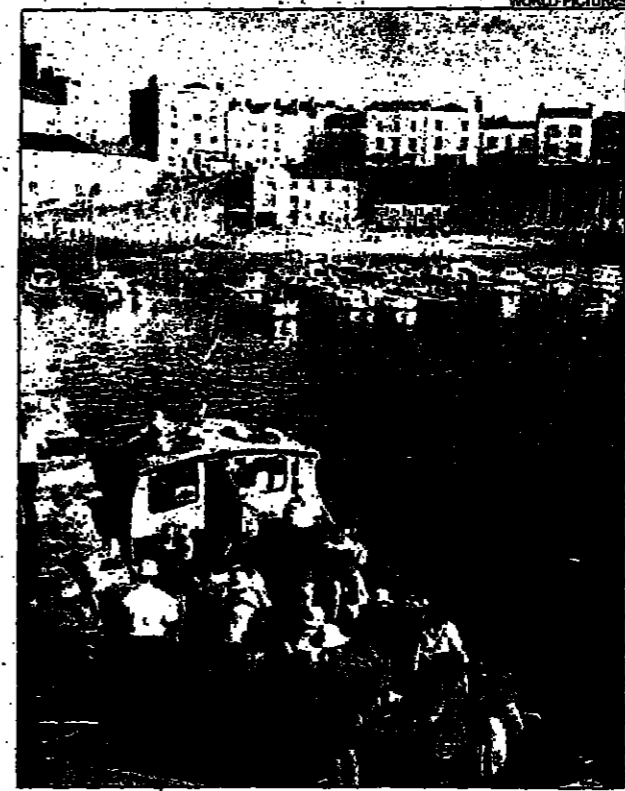
Meanwhile, the simple fact of Tenby's geography works in its favour. Firstly, its four beaches are very different. South has waves, rip tides and a vast stretch of sand. Castle has watersports and access to St Catherine's at low tide. Harbour Beach is just that — a crescent of honey-coloured sand tucked between the fishing fleet and "The Fisherman's

Church" of St Julian's — and North has rock pools, Goscar Rock (a sheer wedge of rock sticking out of the water) and a calm sea. All of them are at the bottom of steep cliffs, zig-zagged with Victorian steps and topped with tiny, burgeoning gardens owned by the cliff-top hotels or the council. With so many beaches, thousands of summer visitors can spread themselves about, leaving central Tenby no busier than a popular market town on a Saturday.

In the end, the holidaymakers — who splash about in rock pools and rub in suncream oblivious to the tribulations of their hosts — come precisely because the town hasn't changed. Family after family 1 spoke to said they visited so the children could play on the commons on Castle Hill, run on the beach, buy cones from the Pembrokeshire Ice Cream Company's handsome maroon vans and take boat trips to see porpoises or the Cistercian monastery on Caldey. "It's not commercial, but it's commercial enough," said Malcolm Watkins, from Bolton, who came here with his parents as a child and was camping with his own family.

"We go off and see things, Rebecca, my daughter, likes history so there's a bit of something for everyone." Teenagers aside, I had to agree. Tenby is unusual in that it is a heritage town, as well as a resort. It has an excellent museum — just under Albert's left arm on Castle Hill — where even Augustus John (who was born here and shocked the town with his *menage a trois* and various illegitimate children) has been gathered into the fold with his own exhibition.

There is a Tudor Merchant's House, complete with chatty guides and a quiz for children, and a handsome old town wall peppered with arrow slits and jaunty weeds. The nearest it gets to seaside-tacky is the grid of shops



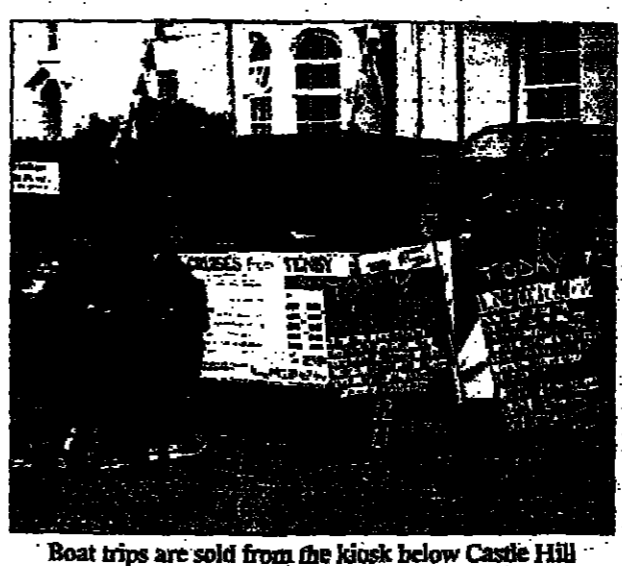
Back from a porpoise-spotting trip around Caldey Island

reached through Five Arches Gate (actually six arches, but never mind), where dragon souvenirs and love spoons live in harmony with inflatable lobster, sandcastle, flags and rock-and-ledge shops.

It is not, however, a town of surprises. Or so I thought, until I rang Pembrokeshire Coast National Park — the planning authority — to check some details about their restoration programme.

"Which would they consider their flagship buildings, I wondered? There was a short pause. "Well, I'd say the flying jetties, probably."

The flying jetties. When the Victorian trippers started arriving, there weren't enough facilities. So they were built out of the sides of houses, cantilevered. You can see them on the terrace above Castle Beach. "I was mortified. All that time in Tenby and I hadn't noticed a single restored flying jetty. Prince Albert, of course, (and his seagull) would have overseen the entire process but whether he would have been amused is open to conjecture."



Boat trips are sold from the kiosk below Castle Hill

**TENBY FACTS**

- Sophie Campbell stayed at The Atlantic Hotel (01834 84283) on The Esplanade, which offers B&B from £40 per person per night; sea-view rooms cost £45. The hotel has an indoor pool and prices include breakfast and VAT.
- Best B&B: there's a beautifully-restored Georgian house at 4 Rock Terrace (01834 843450), with stunning décor and sea views (£37 per room). Closed in the winter (November to March).
- Getting there: An Apex train ticket (booked seven days in advance) from London costs £28 return and takes five and a half hours; from Manchester a return ticket is £36, taking six and a half hours. National Rail Enquiries: 0345 484950.
- Where to eat: The Plantagenet Restaurant & Quay Room on Tudor Square (01834 842350) is friendly and open for meals all day. Prices are steep (Tenby Cracked Crab £14.95, house wine £1.95 per glass). Children (aged up to 12) eat free before 7pm.
- Reading: *Tenby Official Guide* by Alan Shepherd (414 St. Stephen, £2.45); *Wales Rough Guide*, £10.99.
- Further information: Tenby Tourist Information Centre (01834 842402).

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St Brelade's Bay in Jersey offers a wonderful sandy beach and a deliciously clear blue sea; the island's mild climate provides more sunshine days than anywhere on mainland Britain, and the proximity to France means the food is good, too

# Why babies like Jersey cream

I felt like crying when I saw the pushchair waiting at the bottom of the airplane steps at Jersey airport. Partly from relief at the easy journey, and partly from a post-natal tendency to burst into tears randomly and often. But mostly because the holiday we had longed for was just about to begin.

Choosing a holiday had become a difficult task. Our baby, William, was seven months old, so young that, as friends pointed out with puzzled concern, he does not actually do anything, does he? But, only seven months into parenthood, we had never felt quite so desperately in need of a holiday yet never less sure of how to take one.

Our babe-less contemporaries spend their summers lounging in Umbria, backpacking in Vietnam or reclining in Marrakesh. The people

Two novice parents and William, aged seven months, needed to get away — but not too far. Jersey proved ideal, says Lucy Hawking

we know with babies are either much richer — or more optimistic — than us and so go to Barbados; or they are much more resigned, and settle for a weekend break in Chipping Norton.

We still have a vestige of a spirit of adventure in us but, being new-found realists, the idea of travelling too far is quite appalling. My parents once went to Seattle with my then six-week-old brother. His nappy leaked on my father's trousers on take-off, meaning Hawking Sr spent the next eight hours bravely ignoring

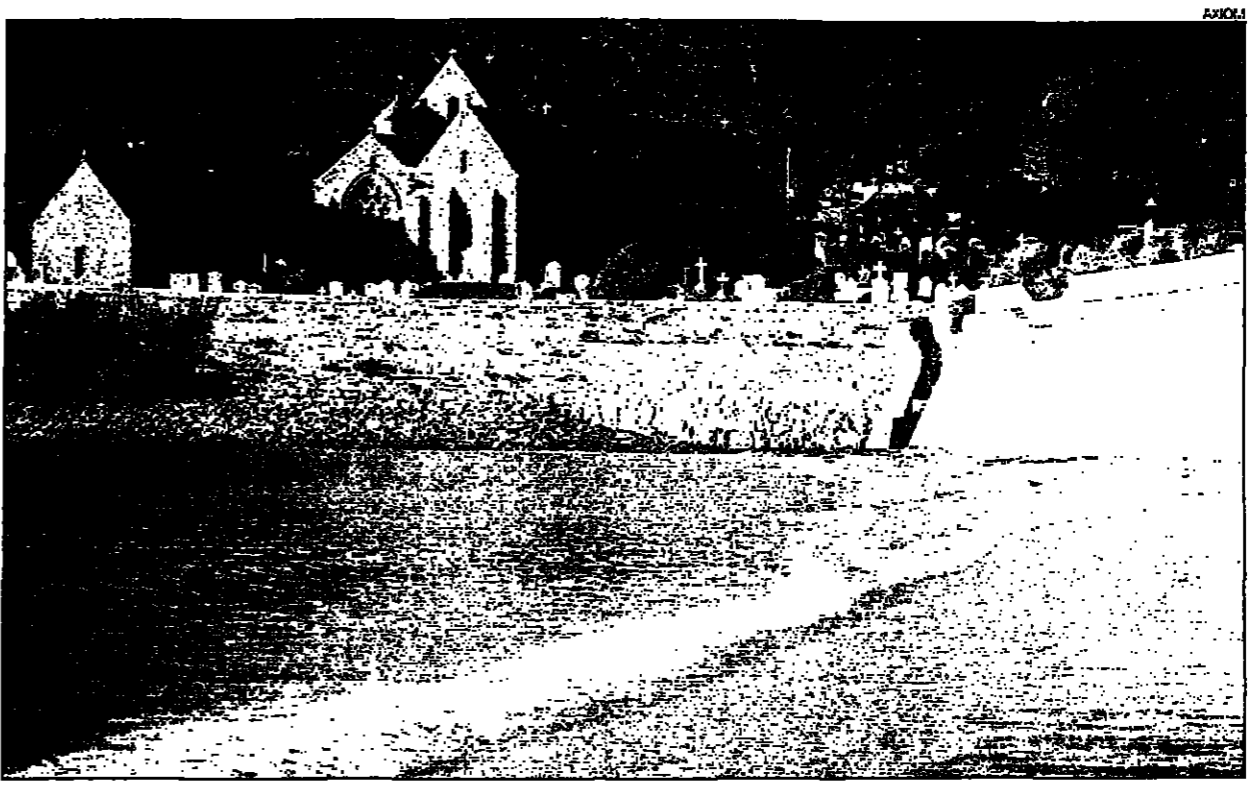
the brown fumes emanating from his trouser area, while Hawking Jr howled. I expect my first holiday was spent in Norfolk.



William hides from the sun

the hotel bedroom did get a bit crowded, what with the cot, nappy-changing zone, bottles sterilising in the basin, discarded outfits, pushchair and the baby's hefty Samsonite suitcase lurking in the hallway. His luggage, which weighed exactly double our combined bags, contained a range of clothing that an It Girl would be proud of, food for a baby army and a fine assortment of unguents. In fact, transporting much of this just-in-case luggage was completely unnecessary — we could have bought anything we had needed within walking distance at a nearby chemist or clothes shop, and St Helier was a short bus-ride away.

Our hotel, however, was firmly and solidly the best of British. A clean, friendly, family two-star, where the breakfasts came fried and the waitresses were from Wigan. It brimmed with affable elderly people and other families with teeny-weenies. A Lancastrian lady at the table next to us beamed at our little tot and said, "Oh, we're all besotted by babies." If only more people were. All too often we have met with a sort of supercilious look, intimating surprise that the owner of something as re-



Say your prayers at St Brelade's Church, a pleasantly energetic and scenic walk away at the end of the bay

volving as a baby would be seen in public with the thing.

However, not here. Not even when we had lunch at the four-star L'Horizon Hotel, 200 yards along the beach. Instead, the French maitre d' gravely presented small sir with a bowl of perfectly mashed banana, a crisp linen napkin and — at last — his very own silver spoon.

There are so many things to do in Jersey that it can be hard to know where to start. There are flower gardens and potteries, zoos and museums, watersports and beach rides. You could go cycling, sailing, jet-skiing or windsurfing, walk along a five-mile beach, see a lighthouse or even take a boat ride to nearby Sark, the island

house baby-sitting service. As reception will listen in on your baby once he is asleep, it means you can step out for a drink or a short walk across the sand. One night, our hotel organised a baby-sitter for us so we could walk across the bay for dinner in the Smugglers' Inn. After garlic prawns and half a bottle of wine, we weaved back across the beach, watched the sunset from the water's edge and got home to the little lamb safely asleep in his cot.

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with no cars. You could go tax-free shopping and get most Marks & Spencer goods for 10 per cent less than on the mainland. You could buy some gold or even play golf.

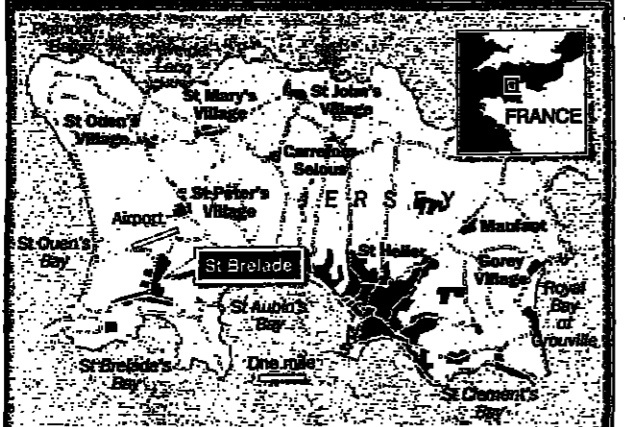
Then again, like us, you could just do nothing at all, except sit on the beach and eat a lot, and what a good place it is for both. Everyone seems to be either on holiday, insanely rich or tanked on the tax-free booze, so the atmosphere is extremely relaxing. And the food is good. It must be the proximity to France that lifts the cuisine out of the usual British holiday resort rut. Instead of subsisting on jumbo sausage and chips or cod-in-batter, we had dishes such as seafood tagliatelle, Royal Jersey oysters or duck with spring onion and ginger.

albeit at reasonable rather than cheap prices.

As far as we know, the baby had a lovely time. The sea seemed to fascinate him and he was happy to sit watching the breaking waves like a mini-Carute in a Paddington Bear hat. He paddled for the first time ever, ate an ice-cream and worked on his tan.

We had taken him away before and had mixed results. There was the time he got suspected meningitis while stuck about halfway through the Channel Tunnel. There was the time he was sick all over a double bed in Dorset.

Fortunately for the opening chapters of the annals of family lore, this holiday will definitely become known as: "The time we took you to Jersey when you were very small and you were very good and it was very nice, thank you."



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**JERSEY FACT FILE**

- Lucy Hawking and family travelled with Premier Holidays (01223 516000).
- Premier Holidays offers short breaks to St Brelade's Bay from £326 per person for three nights, based on two sharing a room and flying from Gatwick at the beginning of September. There is a £5 a night supplement for children under one, children aged between two and 11 have a 50 per cent discount.
- They flew with Jersey European Airways (0990 676676) which offers flights from Gatwick, Luton, Exeter and Birmingham to Jersey from £68 return (you must stay a Saturday night to qualify for cheapest fares). Children under two fly for free. They stayed at the Beau Rivage, St Brelade's Bay, Jersey (01534 45983) where a double room with en-suite bathroom and breakfast costs £41 per person from August 29 to September 25. All rooms can have an extra bed or cot added. No single rooms. Baby-sitting costs £5 per hour, booked a day in advance by arrangement with the hotel.
- Restaurant choice: L'Horizon Grill, L'Horizon Hotel, St Brelade's Bay (01534 43101) will let children eat on the terrace overlooking the bay but not in the main restaurant. Beautifully presented seafood dishes and Jersey-cream rich desserts, about £30 for two with wine and the baby's mashed banana. Lunch served daily. The Old Smugglers' Inn, Ouisaine Bay (01534 41510), children welcome. Prawn cocktail, scampi and steak meals daily, dinner served from 6-9pm, about £25 for two with wine.
- Further information: Jersey Tourism, 7 Lower Grosvenor Place, London SW1W 0EN (0171-630 8787).

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# Getting into the swing of things



**Keen convert: Bill Bidder learns how to get a grip**  
**Novice golfer Jane Bidder jets off to Portugal to learn the basics in stylish surroundings**

WHERE DID MY WEEKEND GO?

**MY HUSBAND** Bill and I enjoy tennis and we are not averse to most sporting activities, but neither of us is a golf buff. So a weekend spent learning how to swing a club in Portugal, combined with a chance to do some pleasant sightseeing, seemed just the thing.

**THURSDAY**

**8am:** After a short delay — our pilot fell ill and a replacement had to be found — we are airborne. On the plane, I settle down to a Nick Hornby novel, but soon start wondering whether the kids will be all right while we're away — we have left them with friends. Soon fall asleep, tired after our early start (we arrived at Luton airport at 6am).

**11.15am:** We arrive at Faro airport, which looks like a bus depot. The usual wait for luggage is eased by the sight of 15ft trees that have managed to grow out of small tunnels to passport control.

**11.55am:** Darios, the local taxi driver, is waiting as arranged with our name on a board. He says there is a "big commotion" on the roads, so the ride to the resort will take two hours.

**12.30pm:** I consider kidnapping Darios for the school run — he speeds along weaving between the traffic with breathless panache. As we overtake a column of cars on the wrong side of the road, I suddenly recall reports of Portugal having the highest traffic accident rate in Europe.

**1.05pm:** I close my eyes as Darios drives on wrong side of road for several minutes before heading off down a track to avoid roadworks. Supposing the police see us?

**1.15pm:** Darios tells us that his brother is a policeman.

**1.20pm:** We turn off down a bumpy track past sights familiar in Spain and Portugal:

half-built houses, dusty villages, churches with obelisks, kids lounging on walls, women in long black skirts.

**2.15pm:** We finally arrive at the Parque da Floresta holiday resort. "First class stuff," says Darios. And it certainly looks first class: pretty whitewashed villas strewn with purple and pink flowers. Inside, the floors are made of cool tiles and there are wonderful Portuguese bed covers, and locally-made crockery in a fully fitted kitchen.

**2.50pm:** We relax by the pool, a million miles from Luton airport.

**4pm:** Sweat it out in the sauna.

**6pm:** Feeling exhausted, take a late siesta.

**7.30pm:** Eschewing restaurants at the resort, we head for Baidra, a local village with a restaurant recommended by Darios. The receptionist says it's a 15-minute walk down a quiet road. After losing our way and getting directions from a woman scrubbing a fish on her doorstep, we find the place. But the English manager says he is booked up until the end of month, even though all the tables are empty.

**8.30pm:** We find a second restaurant run by non-English-speaking women who cook next to the table. We sample the delicious fish — espadarte.

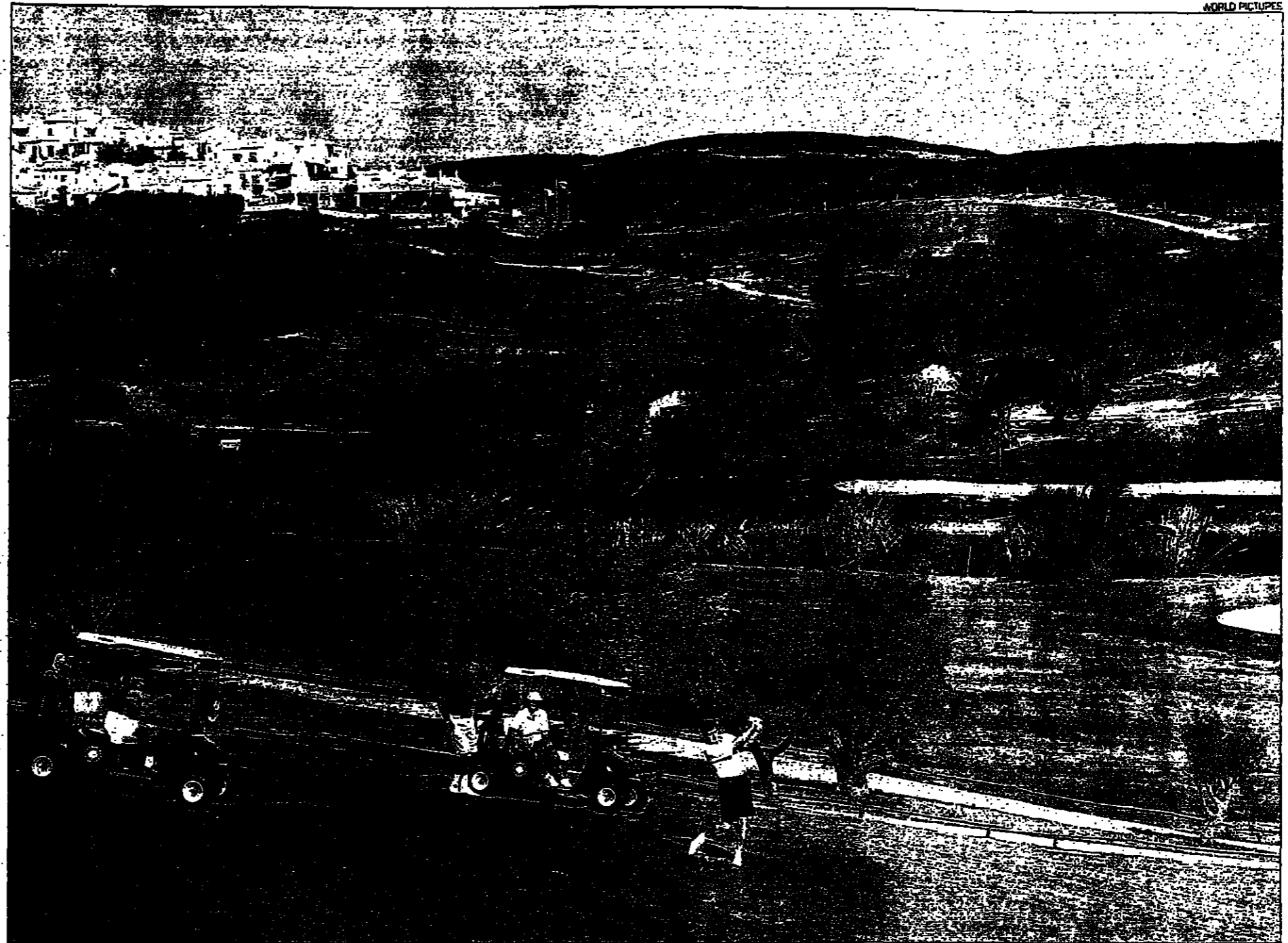
**FRIDAY**

**10am:** Drive to Lagos to explore its cobbled streets and its market selling trinkets and embroidered tablecloths. Not worth a second look in England but the sun affects your judgment. I buy my daughter a necklace, and am tempted by pretty, cheap pottery.

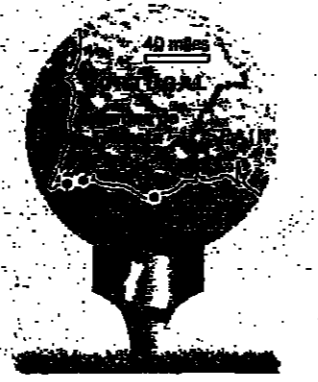
**11.30am:** We climb a steep hill to a church as its bells peal. The doors are shut, but we sneak open a side gate and try to find a way in. We wind up in someone's back garden and tip-toe out, highly embarrassed.



The harbour at Lagos, a great spot for dining out



For those who have never before driven a buggy or swung a seven iron, the Parque da Floresta resort takes some beating as a place to learn the fundamentals of golf



**SATURDAY**

**8am:** Up bright and early for our second lesson. We are each handed a seven iron club and led to the driving range. Disappointingly, we're not quite ready for the course yet.

**10am:** My left palm is hurting, but I'm beginning to enjoy the game. My husband and I compete to see who can hit the ball the furthest; he wins by reaching the 150m flag on the driving range first.

**11.15am:** We visit the sauna, then tumble out into the Turkish bath, which is followed by a workout in the gym. Marvel at how energetic we are being.

**1.30pm:** Have a pleasant lunch munching calamaries on the club house terrace.

**4.30pm:** Final session with Gary. He teaches us how to swing a club with your left hand only to get the pendulum action right. Balls start to sing into air.

**7pm:** We drive into Lagos and park by the harbour, where we dine on Dover sole, cheese and traditional liqueur.

**9.30pm:** Bed in view of tomorrow's early start.

**SUNDAY**

**4.15am:** Wake-up knock on the door from the night porter.

**4.45am:** Drive to the airport.

**7.30am:** Prompt take-off.

**10.10am:** Arrive at Luton.

**12.30pm:** We pick up the kids on the way home. Enthused by the holiday, my husband books golfing lessons at our local club.

**THE VERDICT:** We may not be born golfers, but it was surprising to discover how much we were able to learn in only two-and-a-half days. Parque da Floresta had the atmosphere of a friendly country club with enough British staff to make us feel at home while still enjoying a new cultural experience. It is also sited in the far west Algarve, near a conservation area, which means that it is beautiful and unspoilt. A great holiday.

**TEERING OFF IN THE ALGARVE**

- Jane Bidder was a guest of the Vigia property developing group; her break was organised by UK agent Independent Villas (01473 631470). Independent Villas can arrange tailor-made weekend breaks (Thursday to Sunday) from £309 per person including return flights from Garwick, car hire, three hours joint golf tuition at Parque da Floresta and accommodation.
- TAP Air Portugal (0171-828 0262) has return flights from Heathrow to Faro for £211 plus £17 tax; British Airways (0345 222111) has a world offer for £222 plus £17.50 tax which must be booked before September 2 for travel between September 7 and October 20.
- Best time to go: Autumn is when most tennis and golf competitions are held, and next month a new golf academy opens.
- Books: *Portugal (Lonely Planet Publications, £10.99)*; *Insight Pocket Guides: Algarve (APA, £5.95)*; *Know the Game Golf (J&B Black, £4.99)*.
- Further information: Portuguese National Tourist Office (0171-494 1441)

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**ITINERARY IN BRIEF**

Day 1 Depart from Gatwick. Day 2 Active Harare and fly onwards to Victoria Falls for three nights at the Elephant Hills Hotel. Day 5 Fly to Harare - Hotel Meikles one night. Day 6 Fly to Mauritius for 7 or 14 nights at the Ambre Hotel. Day 13 Fly to Harare - Hotel Meikles one night. Day 14 Optional visit Eastern Highlands and evening departure. Day 15 Morning arrival Gatwick.

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TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

# Why the Tower is the tops

This week's news from the English Tourist Board that the Tower of London is Britain's most popular historic tourist attraction, with 2.6 million visitors a year, conjures up visions of screaming children, opportunistic ice-cream sellers and chaotic queues, writes *Jeanette Hyde*.



The Tower attracts 2.6 million visitors each year, mostly foreign tourists

But when I went to find out why it is so popular, on one of the busiest and hottest days of the year, the worst I found were 20-minute waiting times and a steep entry fee — which few of the visitors I questioned objected to.

During August, there are between 10,000 and 15,000 visitors daily, mostly foreign tourists. Yes, there was a queue at the ticket office outside the gates at midday — but it was moving quickly, and many visitors got straight in by buying tickets in advance at London Tube stations.

Inside the grounds, the atmosphere was calm and orderly. Ice-cream is sold by Pret a Manger caterers at normal rates. Most visitors latched on to a befeater on arrival for a one-hour free tour of the grounds. Up to 200 people would be huddled around each yeoman warder in gruesome delight — or was it concentration? From my end of the huddle I could hear the tail end of the speech — something about "blood, guts and gore, beheadings and executions."

Visiting the Crown Jewels was not what I expected. We wove through a series of rooms with huge screens bearing clips of the Queen's coronation and close-ups of the jewels. This is just a warm-up before you get to the real things, which you glide past on a conveyor belt.

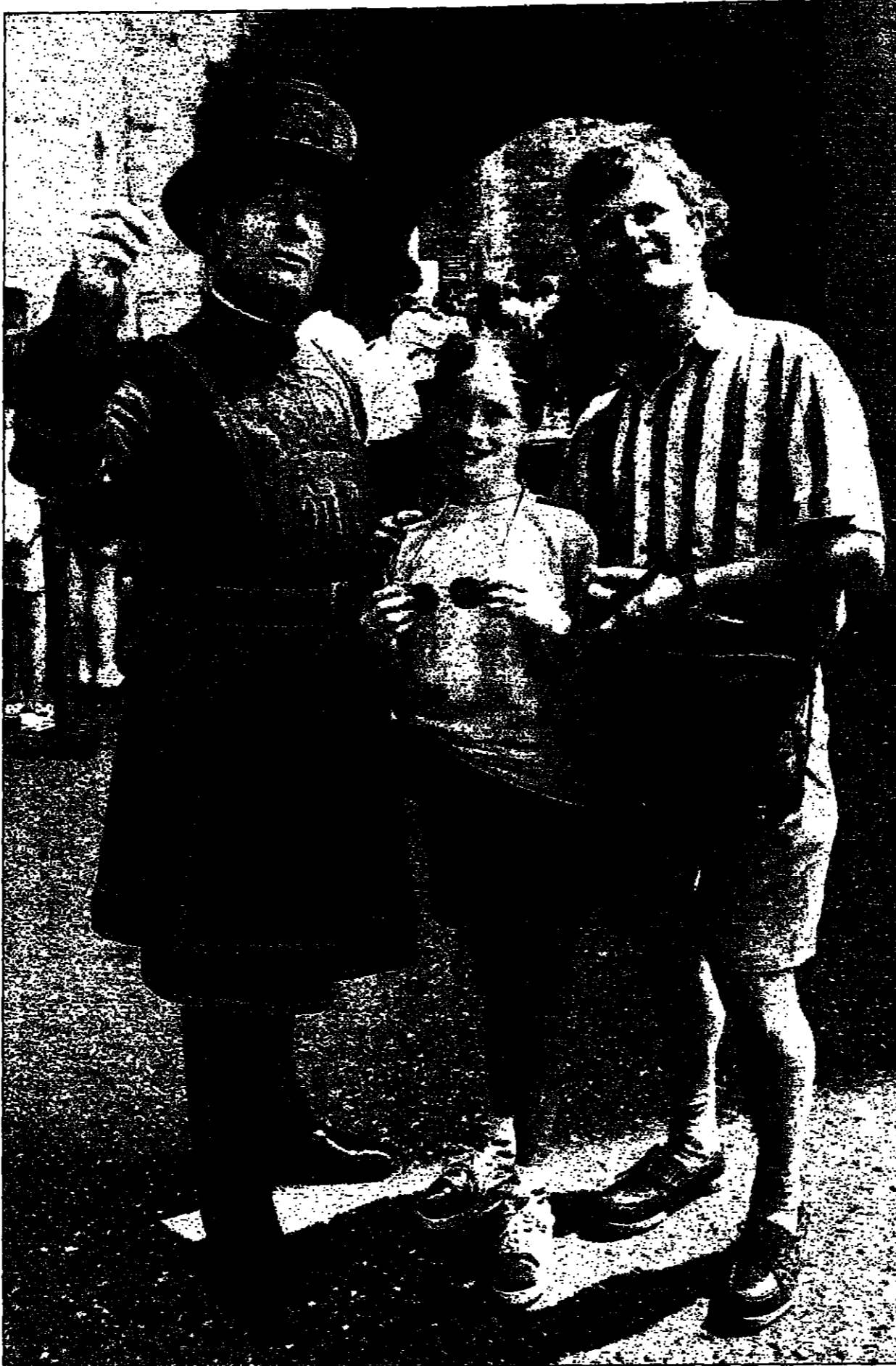
shoes. "After army uniform, this is nothing," he said as dozens of children and senior citizens crawled over him having their photos taken.

Even the souvenir shop was not extortionate. Cardboard DIY model befeaters for 99p seemed surprisingly tasteful and affordable.

Rich Allison, 41, from Denver, Colorado, said: "I was amazed at how long it took to build this place — 200 years — how old everything was and how many executions took place. The Crown Jewels were just unbelievable."

Beryl Hardy, 81, and Joyce Darlington, 75, both from Knutsford, Cheshire, were thrilled by the jewels. "They were marvellous and we thought the whole visit was good value for money," they said, standing with a hot but amiable befeater sandwiched between them for probably his 1,000th photo that day.

● Tower of London information: 0171 753 0765. Admission: adults £9.50, children 5-15, £6.25. A family ticket for two adults and up to three children is £28.40.



A befeater reels off an exciting tale from the Tower's past for Swedish visitor Gislaved Orshagen and daughter Goran

# Strings cut on insurance

THERE was good news for travellers this week from the new Minister for Competition and Consumer Affairs, Dr Kim Howells.

Barely had he moved into his office at the Department of Trade and Industry than he told holiday companies that, as from November 16, they must no longer oblige customers to buy their travel insurance in order to obtain special deals or discounts.

This has long been one of the most irritating "strings" attached to buying a package holiday, as a tour operator's insurance is usually far more expensive than policies sold by brokers or direct insurers.

Also, these off-the-shelf policies may not be tailored to your needs. If you already have all-risks cover on your home contents insurance, for example, you might not need a policy with baggage protection, and if you want to try sports such as water-skiing or parasailing, you might find it best to buy a specially-tailored policy.

Quotes from different companies can vary dramatically. Patricia Yates, editor of *Holiday Which?*, advises holiday-makers to spend some time on the phone, ringing around several of the direct insurers for quotes, and then comparing them carefully.

It might help to get hold of the free advice sheet produced by the Association of British Insurers (send an SAE to ABI, 51 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HQ), which outlines sensible levels of cover that your policy should provide.

her summer break in the Lake District, rather than Tuscany or Cape Cod. Let's hope these enthusiastic new ministers are not squashed once their political masters return from abroad.

IT IS probably rather cheeky to suggest that Ms Anderson has been reading the latest survey on holiday romance, but I'll do it anyway. For it seems that we are more likely to meet a partner on a British break than when we're abroad. Perhaps this survey will be the new minister's greatest marketing tool. It is a pity that one person out of those questioned met their partner at the airline check-in desk. Given the length of some check-in queues, it seems amazing they didn't bring up their family there, too.

INTEREST in the *Titanic* seems as unlikely to abate as that in Diana, Princess of Wales. Some 86 years after *Titanic* sank, a 20-ton chunk of the hull was raised from the depths this week, just as a press release landed on my desk announcing that a Southampton hotel is to offer *Titanic* weekends, featuring themed talks and visits to sites connected with the ship. And a French hotel is now offering tours in very dubious taste from the Ritz to the underpass where Diana died, for \$500 a time. Will Diana fever still be this frenzied in 86 years' time?

I AM glad my colleague Brian MacArthur was able to report from Cephalonia on the success of Louis de Bernières' novel *Captain Coriell's Mandolin* (page 23), as four years ago he predicted the book would be a classic.

Now I cannot go anywhere without seeing people reading it. Some say they find the first 50 pages hard going, but it is worth persisting. If you have not read it already, do take it to the beach.

**TRIP WIRES**  
by Cath Urquhart  
TRAVEL EDITOR

# Overpriced ticket to ride

Holidaymakers who buy multi-pass tickets to attractions in Orlando from tour operators in Britain are often being charged more than normal prices, as well as being encouraged to buy more passes than they actually need.

Several mainstream tour operators as well as some travel agents are marketing overpriced passes to theme parks, dinner shows and airport and balloon rides.

**MULTI-PASS PRICES**

Agency	5-Day All-in-One Hopper	7-Day All-in-One Hopper	3-Park FlexTicket
Vacation Wires 001 507 398 1883	£138.53	£170	£63.60
Airtours 08701 577775	£159	£189	£79
First Choice 0181 743 2228	£180	£191	£68
Thomson 0920 502855	£145	£173	£62
Keith Prowse 01232 252425	£147	£178	£68
TicketShop USA 0181 600 7000	£148	£180	£66

Airtours, Cosmos, British Airways Holidays, First Choice, Jetset, Unijet and Virgin all charge more than the gate price for some passes. For example, if you buy a "Three-park Orlando FlexTicket" (which allows access to SeaWorld, Universal Studios and Wet 'n' Wild for a week) from Airtours, you pay £79, compared with the gate price of £66.71.

Another example of over-pricing comes from First Choice, which offers a "Disney five-day all-in-one hopper" (unlimited entry to the main Disney attractions) for £160, compared to a gate price of £148.86.

However, not all operators are guilty of hiking up prices. Thomson Holidays, Britain's largest operator, actually offers discounts on the gate prices of several multi-passes. For example, it offers a "Disney seven-day all-in-one hopper" ticket for £173. This is £9.90 less than the gate price, and also means you do not have to wait in lengthy gate queues — which are regularly an hour long and can be up to three hours long in peak season.

Overcharging can also be avoided by buying multi-passes from British ticket shops — including Keith Prowse and TicketShop USA — as well as agencies in Orlando. Keith Prowse's "Disney seven-day all-in-one hoppers" are, for example, £6.90 less than gate prices.



Many Disney visitors are paying over the odds for admission tickets

Another problem is that many customers are being persuaded by tour operators to pre-buy more tickets than they could comfortably use during their holiday. Some operators, for example, encourage people to buy a combination of a "Disney five-day all-in-one hopper" pass along with a "Three-park Orlando FlexTicket".

All in all, this would give seven days' admission to Universal Studios, SeaWorld and Wet 'n' Wild, on top of five days' admission to Disney. That practically occupies a two-week holiday, yet some tourists are being sold these two tickets for a one-week stay.

Disney is aware of the potential problems of operators making large mark-ups on its multi-passes. A spokeswoman pointed out: "We sell to operators at cost, which is less than the gate price, so operators are actually able to offer tickets at very competitive prices. It should not be in any operator's interest to mark-up prices too much because they are likely to lose business."

However, tour operators argue they are offering a one-stop shop for all their tickets, providing convenience and helping customers budget for their trips. A Unijet spokesman said: "Pre-bookable attraction passes are provided in the brochure as a service. It allows customers the choice of saving time and energy queuing in the destination. The prices have to allow for travel agent commission and we receive little or nothing for the sale. We also believe customers will shop around for the best deals."

Those who do shop around will find that deals are available. A spokeswoman for TicketShop USA said: "We want to make our tickets as competitive as possible and we don't want people to pay over the gate price."

The Consumers' Association advises travellers to check with operators to find out if there is a mark-up on tickets before booking. A spokesman said: "People should be aware that operators are out to make a profit and may well put mark-ups on Disney passes. If the mark-up is a lot, it's worth trying somewhere else."

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

# VOUCHERS FROM TIMBERLAND WORTH £2,500 TO BE WON

Today *The Times* has teamed up with Timberland to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the classic yellow boot and offers readers the chance to win one of five £500 vouchers for Timberland merchandise.

To enter, simply send us a brief outline of your adventures while wearing Timberland gear\* as well as any pictures of you in action. Your story does not have to be about scaling mountains, just about being there and being active.

Five winners will be chosen by the Timberland team and will have their stories immortalised in an exhibition to be held at the Design Museum on September 22, 1998.

The winners will also receive a VIP invitation to the exhibition which will include stories and pictures of celebrities from the worlds of sport and entertainment wearing Timberland products.

\*Winning entrants will be required to produce the item of Timberland footwear or clothing worn during their adventure. Any items used in the exhibition will be returned.

### HOW TO ENTER

Send your report, in not more than 200 words, to: *The Times*/Timberland Competition, PO Box 5077, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GD. Closing date for entries is Friday, August 28, 1998.



CHANGING TIMES

### SCORCHING CYPRUS: THE LONG HEATWAVE FINALLY EASES

THE worst may be over for tens of thousands of tourists suffering in the scorching heat in Cyprus, but British tour operators are still warning people to take precautions, writes *Chloe Bryan-Brown*.

The Meteorological Department in Nicosia said the heatwave was easing and temperatures, which have gone up to 43C in the past two weeks, were returning to normal — but that caution was still needed.

More than 50 people have died as a result of the extreme conditions, many of them in the popular tourist destinations of Larnaca on the south coast and Limassol in the southwest. Paphos and the capital, Nicosia, have also suffered fatalities while thousands of people

have sought medical care with heat-related problems. Most of the victims are thought to have been elderly Cypriots and people with health problems. No tourists are reported to have died.

Thomson, which has an extensive holiday programme in Cyprus, said it was advising holidaymakers to stay out of the midday sun and to drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids.

Airtours said it was also urging people to take care, and to check they had adequate medical cover.

The Association of British Insurers said health problems caused by heat were generally covered in travel insurance, but that it was unlikely sufferers would be flown home unless they be-

came seriously ill. It said it did not think tourists would be compensated if they cancelled their holiday because they could not face the prospect of the heat, although they might be eligible for some compensation if they were advised against going by their doctor.

The Association of British Travel Agents said it had received calls from worried travellers, but they were mainly concerned with checking whether their hotels had been affected by fires in southern Cyprus this week.

The Cyprus Tourist Board in London said it was advising callers to stay by the sea or to go to the mountains, where temperatures are significantly lower than in the interior.

TRAVELERS' BULLETIN BOARD

Snap to it and save a dragon

lonely planet

TRAVELERS' BULLETIN BOARD

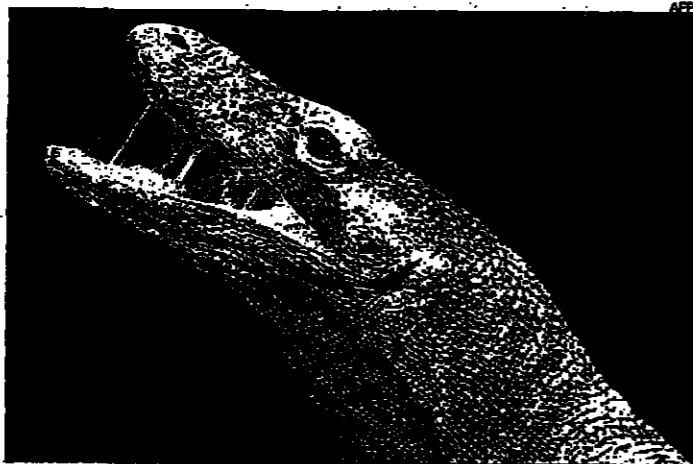


TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw



TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR



The Komodo dragon: a man-eater threatened with extinction

Snap to it and save a dragon

They must be among the nastiest creatures on earth: the Komodo "dragons", three-metre long fork-tongued lizards that will munch through a wild boar at a single sitting, and take on water buffalo, horses — even unwary tourists. The last victim was Swiss — only his camera was found. The lizards frequently eat their young, and their saliva is so toxic that victims die from the bite alone.

Rancho Bernardo Inn, 25 miles from San Diego, is from £229-£1,055 for flights, seven nights' room-only accommodation and car hire, with green fees at three nearby courses costing between £21 and £55 per round. Golfers and their long-suffering non-golfing partners should welcome new offers for single travellers, who can now stay at certain resorts with no extra charge, though if car hire is included there may be a single supplement. At the Windsor Golf and Country Club near Nairobi in Kenya, seven-night holidays during November until December 15, and from March 1 to mid-July, cost £710-£789 (with no extra single supplements) for flights and B&B accommodation. Green fees cost up to £22 per round. Golfers wishing to meet other addicts can take part in the Safari Club Trophy from November 22 to December 2, for £1,115 which includes a nine-night stay, prizes, gala dinner, safari excursion and six free rounds.

Irons in the fire

Long-haul golfing destinations are beginning to upstage hardly perennialists such as the Algarve and Spain in British Airways' Holidays (0870 2424 249) new golfing programme which includes Arizona, Mauritius, Zimbabwe and for the first time, California. The price of a week based at the

One of Europe's most underrated cities, Palma, although only introduced this year, is already outperforming old favourites such as Salzburg, Berlin and Munich, says short break specialist Travelscene (0181-427 4445 at weekends, 0181-427 8800 weekdays). Though the Majorcan capital has no beach — which probably saved it from over-development — Palma's majestic cathedral, its



Palma, the Majorcan capital, may not have a beach, but its lively street life and stunning cathedral has helped make it a success as a short break destination

elegant palm-lined promenade, rich and secretive old medieval quarters, fine shopping and tapas bars plus a mouthwatering food market offer more than enough for an excellent weekend at any time of the year. A two-night B&B break costs between £219 and £359 including flights.

Dressed to kill

The biggest armoury in the world in Vienna's Imperial Palace has reopened after renovation, with five centuries of battle gear covering nine halls and six galleries. Exhibits include the great collections of Frederick III (1527-1576) and Archduke Ferdinand (1527-1595), as well as Turkish booty and Emperor Franz Joseph's breech-loading carbine. The museum is open daily from 10am to 6pm except Tuesdays, and

costs £1.50 for adults, 75p for children, students and pensioners. For further information contact the Austrian National Tourist Office (0171-629 0461).

Normandy events

Steven Spielberg's latest blockbuster, Saving Private Ryan, and the 55th anniversary of the D-Day landings next June will inevitably focus attention on Normandy. The film will be highlighted during the American Film Festival at Deauville from September 4-13. Though the Memorial Museum at Caen provided many of the props, the tourist board admits the only genuine Norman footage is that of the American cemetery above Omaha Beach. Most of the beach scenes were shot in Ireland. But you don't really need any excuse to visit this larder of

France, which can offer many treats on an autumn break — from its andouillettes (small sausages of chitterlings) and calvados (apple brandy made from cider), to Cathedral cities, geometric watering holes such as Cabourg and Deauville itself, and rural landscapes of orchards, speckled cows and half-timbered barns. The Normandy Tourist Board (0177 986 0386) can supply information and a free hotel booking service with rooms from £26 for two.

Cheshire has spawned yet another luxury tour operator, Seasons in Style (0151-342 0505). What is different about the latest? "We present our brochure month by month," says Chief Executive Peter Williams. "We explain that February is the season for Dubai or the

Maldives, while pointing out the snags of Ramadan in January." The company's top-drawer holidays don't come cheap. A 16-day US trip with a ski week in Telluride plus a stay on Florida's Fisher Island, once a Vanderbilt winter estate, costs £2,880 for flights, limousine transfers and room-only five-star hotel accommodation.

Passionate still

Tickets to the Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany in the year 2000 are proving more difficult to come by than for the World Cup — there have been more than three million applications for 400,000 seats. The play has been performed since 1634, when the villagers, believing that their dramatisation of Christ's suffering spared them

from the Black Death, promised to re-enact it every ten years. The next series will take place between May 22 and October 6 in 2000. Only those who have lived in the village of Oberammergau for 20 years are eligible to take part in the play, which takes six hours to perform with a three-hour lunch break in the middle. Regs are recommended, as much of the event is in the open air. Inter-Church Travel (0800 092 5050) offers guaranteed tickets on a week's trip for £769, which also includes flights, six nights' half-board accommodation in the Austrian Tyrol and a night in Oberammergau. Travel articles in The Times since last January are on our Internet site. See "Last Resort" links on http://www.the-times.co.uk

There are still bargains to be had in Bangkok. Qantas Holidays (0990 673464) is offering five nights' accommodation at the Indra Regent Hotel, Bangkok, return flights from Heathrow, transfers and taxes for £999 per person. Extra nights are £12 per person per night. Departs daily. Book by August 31.

Anne Boleyn once stayed at Thornbury Castle, South Gloucestershire, and so can you with Crystal Premier Britain (0181-390 8513). One night's B&B starts at £60 per person, or £117.50 per person for a four-poster bed. Children under 12 are not allowed to stay at the hotel.

Tropical Places (01342 825123) is offering 14 nights' accommodation only at St Frigate Bay hotel, St Kitts, for £649 per person, including taxes and transfers. Departs from Gatwick on August 21 or 28.

Unpack your whistles: the Notting Hill Carnival runs from August 28-31 this year. Sunvil UK (0181-232 9788) is offering two nights' B&B at the Swallow International Hotel, Kensington, for £99 per person. Elvis fans will know that tomorrow is the anniversary of "The King's" death. Pay your tributes with Luna Poly, who will fly you to Memphis from Heathrow or Gatwick for £530 return, including tax. Departs daily, valid until August 31. Contact your local Luna Poly for details.

If you can handle the heat, which can reach 40C, Treasures of Turkey (0171-494 2292) is offering seven nights' half-board at a three-star hotel in Olu Deniz, a resort on the Aegean Coast, for £369 per person from Gatwick on August 28. Also departing on August 28 from Manchester, seven nights' B&B at a two-star hotel in Olu Deniz is £309 per



person. Both offers include tax and transfers.

Lakes and Mountains Holidays (01329 844405) is offering one week in a one-bed self-catering apartment in Engelberg, near Lucerne, Switzerland, starting at £234 per person based on two sharing, or

one week in a two-bed apartment starts at £151 per person based on four sharing. Both offers include return Dover-Calais ferry crossings for car and passengers. Valid until Aug 31.

Costa Cruises' (0171-323 3333) seven-night Baltic capital cruise on the Costa Marina, calling at Stockholm, Helsinki and St Petersburg, starts at £740 per person including an inside cabin, meals and entertainment and return flights from Heathrow to Copenhagen. Departs Sept 13.

JOANNA HUNTER

Table with columns: Route, Promotional Fare, Flexible Fare. Includes destinations like London, Amsterdam, Athens, etc.

You won't find many tourists

A major tour company is offering trips to Iraq, writes Tom Chesshyre



Baghdad, Iraq: the Foreign Office is advising people to stay away, but two tour operators are flouting the official line

A mainstream British tour operator is defying Foreign Office advice by offering holiday packages to Iraq. With tension building in the Gulf as Saddam Hussein becomes embroiled in yet another dispute with United Nations weapons inspectors, Voyages Jules Verne has become the first major operator to return to Iraq since the invasion of Kuwait in 1990. It is organising two trips next year in the Mesopotamian region, ignoring Foreign Office advice that recommends people "should not attempt to visit Iraq". The first trip, which includes visits to Baghdad and Babylon, is in May and already more than half of the 60 places available have been booked. A few places have also gone on an October 1999 trip. A spokesman for Voyages

Jules Verne said: "There has been a lot of interest in the trips so far. Although the Foreign Office says that you shouldn't go, that advice could change before next year." The only other holiday company offering packages to Iraq at the moment is Travel Company Live, run by Phil Haines, who became the youngest person ever to have visited every country in the world at the age

of 35. He visited Iraq, the final country on his round-the-world challenge, in November 1997. He subsequently set up as a tour operator and took a group of eight people to Mesopotamia last June — the trip had originally been planned for April, but was delayed because of concerns about a build up of troops in the region at the time. Places are still

available on the next holiday trip this October, which includes a visit to the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Mr Haines said: "As long as you have the right documentation, Iraq is a perfectly safe place to visit. We have never had any trouble and have always enjoyed its culture and the history." A spokeswoman for the Association of British Travel

Agents said: "When the Foreign Office says you shouldn't visit a country, that is about as strong a form of language as they use. In such a situation, it is always down to the tour operator to point out the risks of visiting the country and then up to the customer to decide whether to go. The operator should make clear whether a refund will be available if the tour has to be cancelled."

Alert in Nairobi

LAST week's bombing near the American Embassy in Nairobi has again raised fears about the safety of tourists in Kenya, writes Joanna Hunter. However, while Nairobi, now in a state of emergency, should be avoided, the Foreign Office says visitors to other parts of the country should not panic. "The risk of a repeat incident seems low and there is no need to alter travel plans." Jake Grieves-Cook, managing director of tour operator Tropical Places, which has taken more than 1,200 tourists to Kenya this year, said: "We had several calls from anxious clients but we reassured them that there was no need to cancel their plans." Contact the Foreign Office for advice on 0171-238 4503 or http://www.fco.gov.uk

CRUISE THE FORTUNATE ISLANDS

On board the Swiss managed MS Switzerland calling at Madeira, La Palma, Tenerife, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote & Agadir for Marrakesh. The Canary Islands and Madeira have always been present in legends whether it be the lost Atlantis or the mystical lands that lay beyond Hercules Columns (the Straits of Gibraltar). The strategic location of the islands between the Old and New World with the prevailing trade winds and favourable year-round climate has always made these islands a favourite stopping off place, whether it be the explorers of yesterday or in the days before the aeroplane, the great liners particularly those of the Union Castle line en route to the southern and western hemispheres. Our seven-night cruise seeks to introduce these elements, and many more, to the traveller with calls at Madeira, La Palma, Tenerife, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote and finally to the African coast at Agadir for the optional visit to Marrakesh. ITINERARY IN BRIEF Day 1 Fly from London to Funchal, Madeira. Join the MS Switzerland and sail in the evening. Day 2 Reach Santa Cruz de La Palma, the greenest of the Canary Islands. Evening sailing. Day 3 Arrive Las Palmas, Canary Islands. Sail in the evening. Day 4 Reach Santa Cruz de Tenerife and spend the whole day exploring. Day 5 Arrive at Arrecife on Lanzarote. Sail in the afternoon. Day 6 Reach the Moroccan coast at Agadir. Optional tour inland to Marrakesh. Return and sail in the evening. Day 7 At sea. Day 8 Arrive back in

TRAVELLERS' TIP lonely planet Send your suggestion, in no more than 75 words, on a postcard to: Travellers' Tip, The Times Travel Desk, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN, with your name, address and daytime telephone number. If yours is published, you will win the Lonely Planet guidebook and phrase book of your choice.



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WANT A DATE? RING THE TIMES 0171 481 4000



Get ready to enter the mental combat zone. The 1998 Mind Sports Olympiad offers the chance to pick up gold, silver and bronze medals in 40 different categories of Mind Sports and Mental Skills.

speed reading, IQ, poker and, of course, the finals of The Times Crossword Championship. There are also the ultimate challenges of the Pentathlon and the Decathlon, which test five or ten different mental skills.

Experts tell you that as you get older your brain shrinks and you cannot memorise as much. But the reverse is true, he says. He can memorise a pack of cards in about 30 seconds.

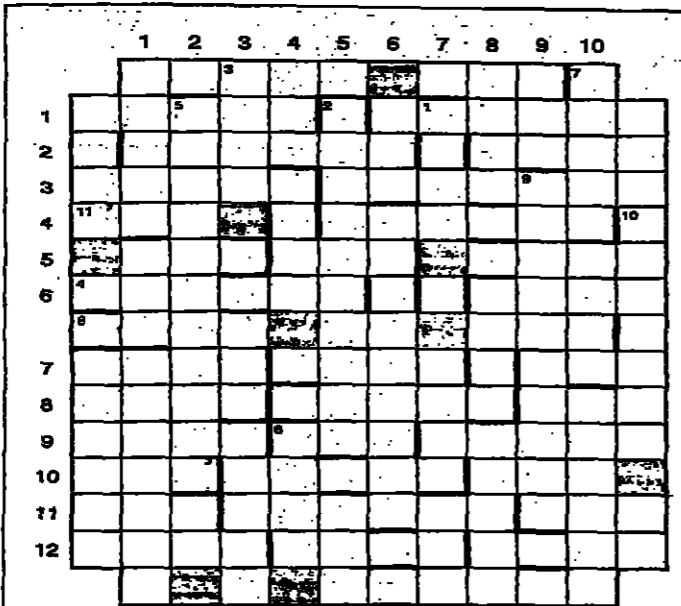
Exclamation of Job which Ahab uses (3) One near to ecstasy to endure no more (4) Initials of cricketer winning Gloucestershire glory? (3)

Spectators are welcome at MSO '98, which will take place at the Novotel, Hammersmith, West London, to watch and learn new games. Admission is £2 a day, £5 for the week, from 10am to 8pm each day.

HOW TO ENTER Ring MSO Hotline (01707 659080) or send an SAE to: Mind Sports Olympiad, PO Box 13388, London NW3 2ZF. Full details are also on the MSO Website: www.mindsports.co.uk

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3475: First Line Tribute To... by Apex



THIS PUZZLE contains the last four lines of an ode (written to mark the publication of a report in October 1997) which should strike a chord with Listener solvers.

Clues, listed in correct order in rows and in columns, are presented as First Lines which have yet to appear in The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations.

- Across rows 1 Surprising success with man, a raven (5) Oil contaminates prow of ocean-going liner (6) 2 Of the roof of an equation, hearts in US rose, I see (6)

- Down columns 1 Reveller on entering parade (5) River with superior water (3) A tree Scots own one neighbour climbs (7)

NAME ADDRESS Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3475, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, August 27.

Waterstones logo and promotional text: 'The winner will receive a Waterstones book worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book worth £10.'

Solution and Notes for No 3472: L E C O M P A N I O N S E N A T E T R O O P E R P A L I N I E L S E W M I M A M S N S E N N T I D E N I M A L C U L U S O L D D E S A I R Y O T P R A D W I V E S F O R T R I L O G Y S E I N E E C R E O N O A S S E S R A C U P F U L M E N S A G A K H A N S O R E E D E R R I N G E R S S S

The quotation by FRANCIS BACON, reflecting the puzzle's title, comprises the 13 unclued lights: 'Wives are young men's mistresses, companions for middle age, and old men's nurses.'

CROSS WORDS

Next weekend, more than 300 readers will be taking part in the first of the London regional finals (on Saturday) and the national final (on Sunday) of The Times Crossword Competition.

BRIDGE

AS WELL AS individual games such as go and shogi, and competitive games such as backgammon and draughts, at the Mind Sports Olympiad, there will of course be nine bridge tournaments plus Mini-Bridge.

by Robert Sheehan

The declarer was Bobby Goldman, former world champion and member of the original Dallas Aces team, playing in the 1998 Spingold, the principal knockout event at the American Summer Nationals.

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THE Mind Sports Olympiad is an annual festival in which all the contestants are thinking games. There have been Olympiads devoted to specific mind activities before. Since the 1920s there have been Chess Olympiads which are held every two years.

queen's rook is shut in. White perceives that the queenside is where future developments will be concentrated. 13 Be2 Na5 14 Qb4 Re8 15 Be2 Bb6 16 Qa4 a5 17 b4 Nb7

The following game was played by Matthew Sadler in last year's MSO chess section. White: Matthew Sadler. Black: Alan Perkins. Mind Sports Olympiad 1997. Slav Defence. 1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e3

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

THE Edinburgh International Festival was founded in 1947 to "enliven and enrich the cultural life of Europe, Britain and Scotland" and "provide a period of flowering of the human spirit".

time, the files and drums of the local regiment would march through the streets, their music signalling a return to quarters, and the shout would go up, 'Doe den tap toe' (turn off the taps).

NEW SOFTWARE

TOTAL INSANITY 2 is the second compilation package to be rolled out by Europress: three games on five CD-Roms. The trio are Worms 2, Star Trek Generations and Titanic - Adventure Out of Time.

SOLUTION TO JUMBO 178

MAGISTRATES COURTS HORNPIPES I H T I H Y N E E O E O E U SCAVENGER MAELSTROM HIDINGS C S A H E P S T V O E G D P ATTEMPT AMATEUR INGRATITUDE L L B L D T L A N E S R E L N LAYWOMEN SHIFTING GONES ROUND E I T F P I N I E M E DEADLETTERS FUTURIST PAUSED B E A R E L E E S C S S P O R R A N I N R O A D S F I R S T D E G R E E W L D O S I R A T I N EVIDENCED DEHYDRATE THOUGHT A T P E L I B E I N E N H E R E I N S I T C O L L U S I O N O V E R E A T E N B O I T E L S U N H C L A N D L O R D I S M B E S T M A N R O U L A D E A O E M N U A C O N N C L I E N T S T R A D D L E S P E L L B I N D E R K N A R I T D L O A I N D U S T R I A L D I S E A S E S B E R I B E R I S E A P C O P C R T D O N N W I N D C H E A T E R E S C A P E R N O M A D I C H T I R G A M M U I U A G H I N T U R I N G B R A S S E R I E C U R E T T A G E T R S I L L N E S C O S I M C E L E C T R O D E T U R N T H E O T H E R C H E E K



MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q How long does a marriage proposal remain valid? I recently proposed to a beautiful lady whom I met through The Times. Unfortunately she has failed to reply. My natural optimism allows me to consider the glorious prospect that she is still considering the matter. However, in the absence of any reply, when would I be able to consider it "dead"? It is only the third proposal of my life (won one, lost one... one undecided) and I would hate to find myself guilty of breach of promise in the unlikely event of meeting another woman of my dreams. — Michael Harvey, London SW1.

A I fear that this is a rare case of no news being bad news. Good manners do not prescribe a generally accepted period of reflection during which a would-be betrothed dwells on a proposal of marriage. Usually the girl in question either responds instantly with a yes or a nay, or sets down a time limit by which she will give her answer. As any proposal remains open until it is accepted, rejected or indeed withdrawn, perhaps you might like to set her a deadline. I suspect this will probably be a case of third time unlucky, but at least a confusing chapter of your life will be brought to a close.

disintegrate as all and sundry rush around like flunkies. It is also sensible for the host to remain seated to enable him to look after his guests. Do your bit but then settle back, confident that you will be scoring double Brownie points by being both incredibly helpful and a truly fascinating guest.

Q A friend who lives abroad invited me to his wedding but without inviting my live-in partner of many years, whom both he and his then-fiancee had met more than once. He had, however, invited another friend with his wife, although he had not met her. Discreet inquiries revealed that non-married partners were not invited in order to keep numbers down. I politely declined the invitation in the usual manner, but privately expressed to my friend that although I would not see him at his wedding, I looked forward to seeing him when he was next in my home city. After I declined the invitation, several mutual friends criticised my decision. However, I feel that in today's society it is not really acceptable to exclude people's partners simply because they are not married. — Name and address withheld.

A You are right to feel aggrieved. Brides do need to adopt a system to help them ration the number of guests, but your friend could have made an easy distinction. Long-term partnerships are almost socially equal to marriages. However, more short-term arrangements are definitely not and therefore do not need to be acknowledged socially at important occasions.



Q I was surprised by your reply to the letter about formal replies to "at home" invitations which, as far as I know, should never include the words "at home". — Peter Sinclair, London W5.

A Mea culpa. Thank you so much for pointing out my brainstorm. You are absolutely right — the words "at home" may grace the invitation card, but there they remain.

Q I am a bachelor of 40. I often go to casual dinner parties given by friends. The host pours the drinks, the hostess produces the meal. After the first course the plates pile up, and I get up to help clear away and bring in the next course. After the main course the same thing happens, except that this time I do nothing and wait for another guest to lend a hand. Needless to say, nothing of the sort occurs — and the hostess has to fend for herself. I object to this laziness, particularly on the part of the host, who is somehow cemented to his seat. Perhaps you can suggest a firm but amusing way of suggesting that others have their obligation too? — Name and address withheld.

A You should do nothing and calm down. Remember that a guest's primary function at a dinner party is to entertain and amuse, rather than fetch and carry. Although many hostesses welcome practical help from their guests, none of them wishes to see her table

nerhaps are almost socially equal to marriages. However, more short-term arrangements are definitely not and therefore do not need to be acknowledged socially at important occasions.

Q When staying in a hotel and using room service, should one tip the waiter an appropriate small amount for the service, or should it be a percentage of the cost of the order, as in a restaurant? — John Bennet, Oxford.

A Room service tips are assessed quite differently from the fixed percentage dining room principle, which takes into account the general service offered there. The room service gratuity is a single one-off gesture to whoever delivers your order and tends to be a standard rate that the giver considers appropriate to his pocket and the status of the establishment. However, there can be flexibility. For instance, the arrival of a gleaming silver tray bristling with iced Krug and glistening Beluga caviare probably warrants a slightly more generous tip than would be the case with the delivery of a simple toasted cheese sandwich. This will prevent the hotel guest from appearing mean and lacking a sense of occasion.

• The author is associate editor of GQ.



WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard

GAMGEE a. Wound-dressing b. Town in Texas c. Weather-forecast technique

TAUNGYA a. A clearing b. A semi-precious orange stone c. Ritual humiliation

YESHIVA a. A yak keeper b. A college c. A skull-cap

SHAURI a. Counsel b. A village elder c. A wood nymph

Answers on page 35



TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

THE FIRST German Memory Championship, which tested names and faces, words, numbers, cards and poetry, has been won by Dr Gunther Karsten with 928 points out of a possible 1,000. In silver-medal position was Ms Manuela Meurer with 612 points, while bronze was won by Christian Schmitt with 597 points. Among his exploits at the event in Stuttgart last month, Dr Karsten memorised seven full packs of shuffled cards (284 cards) in one hour.

Question 1 Look at the following sequence of numbers: 2, 3, 2, 7, 11, 13, 7, 19.

First, fill in the gaps, and then calculate the product of the entire sequence. For full genius credit, do not use a calculator or pen and paper.

Question 2 Dietary habits. Lion is to wildebeest as giraffe is to \_\_\_\_\_

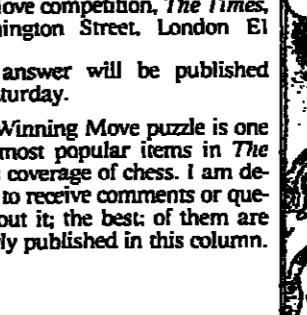
Answers on page 35



WINNING MOVE

by Raymond Keene

WHITE to play. This position is from the game Bolbochan v Pachman, Moscow 1950.



How did White manage to conclude his kingside attack with a fine blow?

Solution to last week's competition: 1... Bg2+ (2 Nxe2 Qf1+)

The winner is Benjamin J. Washburn, of Lower Peover, Cheshire.



At least it maketh a change from the thilver thpoon in one's mouth

PICTURE LINE

READERS are invited to suggest what was said when Lord Brocket left Springhill jail on a borrowed motorcycle.

This picture will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted. Send your "speech bubble" suggestions — only on postcards please — to: PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, August 19.

Last week's winning caption (left) was submitted anonymously.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

It appears that we've had a major malfunction of the vehicle. — Cape Canaveral commentator as US rocket carrying a \$1 billion satellite exploded 42 seconds after take-off

I know many of the mink are going to die but at least they will have had a taste of freedom. — Animal Liberation Front after releasing 6,000 animals from a fur farm in Hampshire

I've cried for Britain. My eyes got so bad I found myself thinking only surgery could sort them out. — Television presenter Anthea Turner, photographed wearing only a snake, describes her recent emotional upheavals

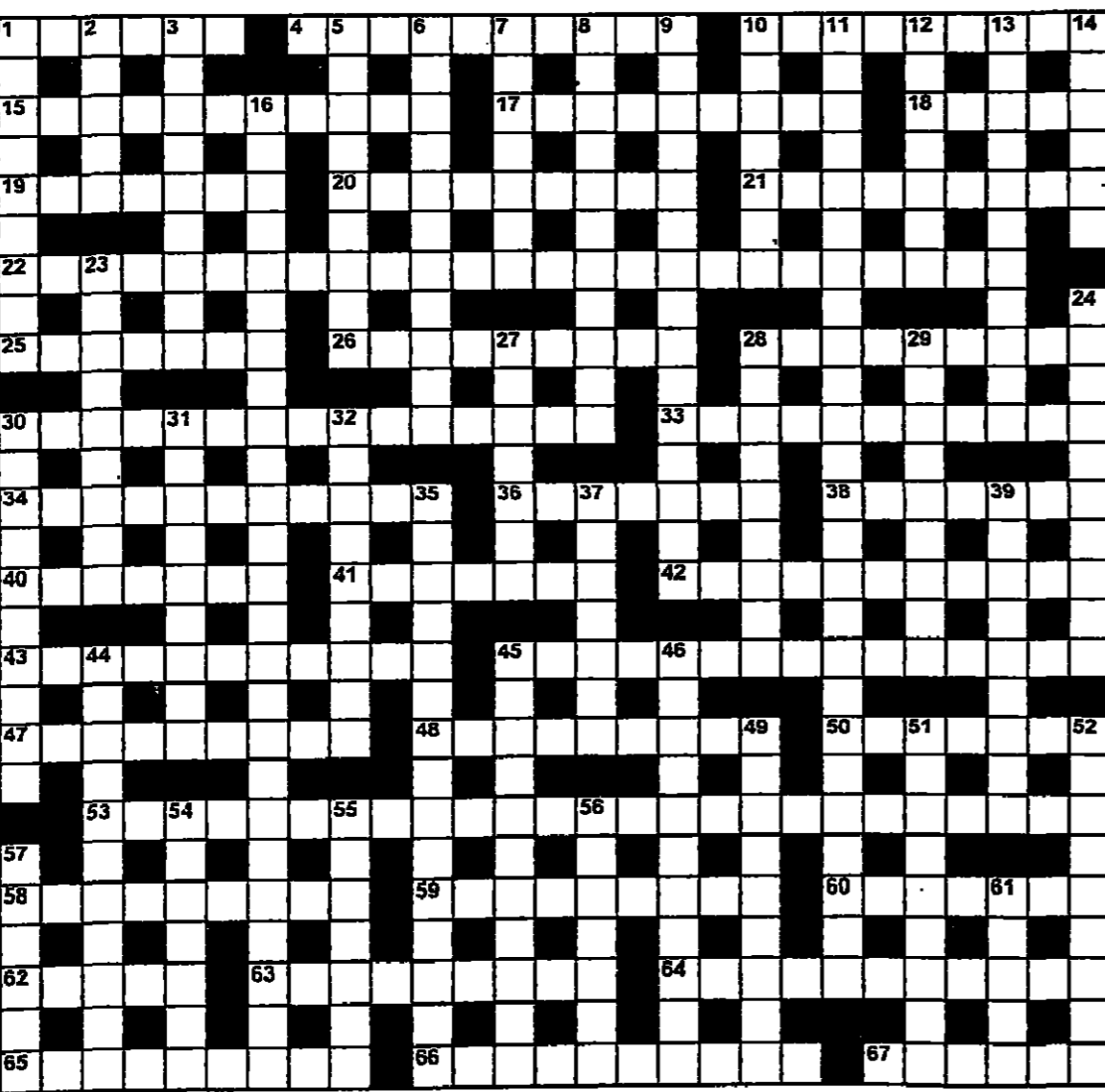
In place of a whining victim culture we have the heroic selflessness of figures such as Angus Fraser and Michael Atherton, who would not have been out of place at Dunkirk. — The Daily Mail celebrates England's cricketing victory against South Africa

If living next to a police station doesn't make a difference, God knows what will. — Man burgled six times, despite living next to the police station

JUMBO CROSSWORD 180



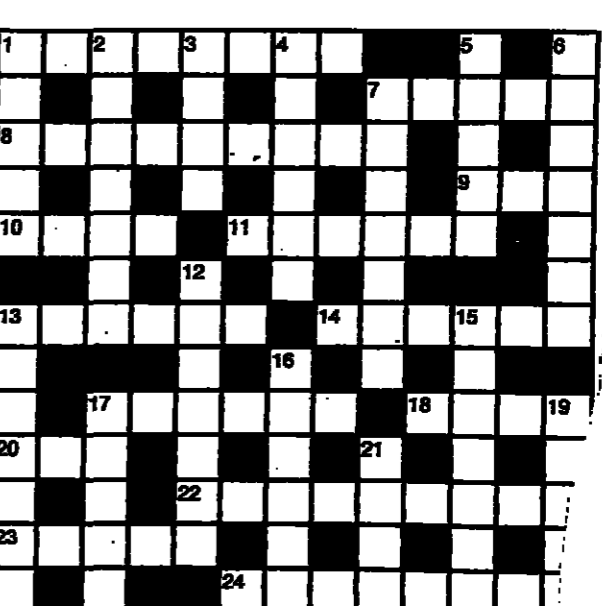
The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be a collection of five Oxford University Press titles, the world's most trusted reference books, valued at more than £100. Included are The Oxford English Reference Dictionary and The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Quotations. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 180, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by August 27. The solution will be published on August 29.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

- ACROSS 1 Content doing time (6) 4 Catch old woman breaking into dress boxes (10) 10 Tow rope A.B's thrown for vessel (9) 15 Second display of amusement by monarch's assassin (11) 17 Device on cooker — a speedo? (9) 18 Clean break, by the sound of it (5) 19 Chap has a target, a sea-cow (7) 20 First proper appeal I have put together (9) 21 English and Siamese subsequently return to get their own back (9) 22 Comment about water in the Great Ouse — the end result will be OK (2,4,3,4,3,2,3,4) 25 Boasted about plan finally knocked on the head (7) 26 Avalanches in Senegal covering first of flowers (9) 28 Whose epic could become a magnum opus? (9) 30 Greeting from Midas, farewell from boss (6,9) 33 Rash and quick to take offence, with intensity of feeling (7,4) 34 Colours seen in French game (5-2-4) 36 This could be hoisted as pilot ordered (7) 38 Say German is interrupting very big bigheads (7) 40 Silverware chosen by heads of retailing organisation (7) 41 Old cricketers, with time, become rusty (9) 42 To save money, your supermarket initially introduced larger quantity for lower price (7,4) 43 Appropriate three metals for small blade (6,5) 45 Originally I meant trainee to become a queen (5,10) 47 Treatises concealing rubbish in very small amounts (9) 48 Almost time to have a bash at cabaret (9) 50 More lordly before? (7) 53 If all else fails, should two out-and-out villains get together? (2,3,5,5,2,3,5) 58 Regular, showbiz awards rejected by kid, mostly (9) 59 Lamenting changes in dressing (9) 60 'A Yankee soldier joined English army,' said Yank restlessly (7) 62 Extreme and, to some extent, harmful transformation (5) 63 Lurid broadcast about cutting back of priests (9) 64 Determine speed — of heart? (4,3,4) 65 Revealing setting for gem in shape of a D (9) 66 Bony projections on elbows — nasty scar on left one (10) 67 Verbal agreement for rise (6)
- DOWN 1 At home, murderer's keeping doctor up, unable to sleep (9) 2 Health resort in European country (5) 3 Understand Latin without needing a heart stimulant (9) 5 Stronghold with a season's produce having store put up (9) 6 Meat-eating coach — man overcome by common sense (11) 7 Prepared plainer sweet (7) 8 Musical making a comeback receives a lot of praise of quality (11) 9 The winner was, originally (2,3,5,5) 10 Fish cake (7) 11 Cook one's favourite shellfish to provide that feel-good factor (4,3,7,2,4,5) 12 Parrot climbed, followed by the whole lot climbing (7) 13 Surprisingly, heavier cove appears to do better than expected (11) 14 Jack has to be given an objective (6) 16 Prospector's labourer, or world ruler? (3,4,4,5,3,6) 23 Crawler in court brought up ancient custom (9) 24 For building cote, there's a hundred cubic meters of timber (10) 27 Sacred writing revealing in part Ganesh's tradition (7) 28 Distillery on Southern stream, they say, is unable to succeed (9) 29 Sort of canopy sheltering nobles in Harwich Yacht Club — it's blue, obtained from seaweed (9) 30 The way one can be lead astray here (6,4) 31 Legal action to throw out people — trespassers, chiefly (9) 32 New words derived from foreign lingo and Old English (9) 35 Strike as iron's hot — need a replacement (5,4,4,2) 37 Entertainer, and where he entertained with nonsense (7) 39 'More good' is not covered by 'More crafty' (9) 44 March 1 — Act is passed, inspiring great enthusiasm (11) 45 Group of entertainers in fairy ring (5,6) 46 One of other ranks given ten medals in revolution (8,3) 49 Charge — purely nominal — for common present (4,5) 51 Eats surrounded by squabbles and disorderly behaviour (9) 52 Retired rambler beginning to tire and turn back (9) 54 To girl I left a plate (7) 55 Start business up — detective's preliminary finding given in evidence (7) 56 Supervisor brings in novice, after dismissing a hacker (7) 57 Gets taken to court and given out (6) 61 Saw, say, a foreign lawyer standing up (5)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



- ACROSS 1,7 Richard III final defeat (8,5) 8 Unrefined (bread) (9) 9 Total (3) 10 Well off (4) 11 Passionate (6) 13 Lombardy tree (6) 14 Render in stone (6) 17 Seats, hoists in triumph (6) 18 So be it (prayer) (4) 20 Fuss (3) 22 Quasimodo's condition (9) 23 Richard's kingdom for it at 1 across (5) 24 York Town; Henry Tudor earldom (8)
- DOWN 1 Shelter, boudoir, an an (5) 2 White top of egg Mt Fuji (5) 3 Some 5s of the 7 across 4 Speculative idea (6) 5 Wild animal (5) 6 Unyielding (substance) (7) 7 Full competence (in for language) (7) 12 Stylish confidence (7) 13 Voracious tropical fish 15 Lower back pain (7) 16 Borneo sultanate (6) 17 Woo, King's retinue (6) 19 Unclothed (5) 21 Iran monarch tide on (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 1484 ACROSS: 1 Comb 3 Son-in-law 5 Rune 9 Zeppelin 11 Workaholic 14 Reveal 15 Cavern 17 Silhouette 20 Emaciated 21 Part 22 Diligent 23 Weld DOWN: 1 Careworn 2 Mangrove 4 Oregon 5 Imprimatur 6 Lull 7 Wane 10 Law-abiding 12 Lestrade 13 Inverted 16 Photon 18 L Hall

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